

TOMORROW

More people are playing chess and more watching it being played than ever before. In Saturday, a former British chess champion reports on the grand prix chess circuit and the build-up to the next world championships. Also in the eight-page arts and leisure section are features on: Travel: The call of the wild in Alaska; Values: How to buy your holiday luggage; Drink: Alsace wines and news and views of the forthcoming week's events in the arts.

£200m for computer industry

The Government is to help the computer industry develop new, "more intelligent" computers, in a programme that will cost up to £200m over five years and is designed to prevent Britain falling behind Japan and the United States. **Back page**

CND poll check

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is to appoint a full-time worker for the general election campaign who will draw up a register of all candidates' views on nuclear weapons. **Page 3**

Stiffer sentence

General Alfonso Armada, who was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for his part in the unsuccessful Spanish coup in February, 1981, had his sentence increased to the maximum 30 years by the Spanish Supreme Court. **Page 8**



Nicaragua anger

President Reagan's four-point proposal for Central America was denounced in Managua, where the Sandinista authorities called on the people to take part in armed street marches throughout the country. **Page 6**

Harrods claim

Professor Roland Smith, chairman of the House of Fraser, claims that an independent pension fund report challenges Lorrho's argument that shareholders risk nothing by demerging Harrods. **Page 17**

Gdansk arrest

Gdansk police detained Mrs Bozena Rybicka, Mrs Lech Walesa's secretary, and searched her flat. Her husband said she was stopped when she left Mr Walesa's home. **Ideology clash, page 9**

Schoolboys die

Two boys aged 15 were found dead in a shed in Weston-super-Mare, Avon. The father of one said he had heard that police had taken away samples of a solvent. **Page 3**

Teachers' jobs

Seven thousand teachers' jobs could be lost in 1983-84 but colleges of further education expect to employ 1,000 new lecturers in the next 12 months. **Page 3**

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Letter: on Mr Bruce Kent, from Mr E. E. Y. Hales, and others: TV licence fee, from Mr D. Elstein: British Telecom, from Mr P. B. Matthews, and Mrs M. A. Mills. **Leading articles: President Reagan; EXIT; Soviet submarines. Features, pages 10-12** Sir Ian Gilmour Warns Tories that CND is not the real enemy; Dublin's Protestants on the way up; Learning to live with Andropov; Spectrum: Lords of the green baize battlefield. **Friday Page:** The romantic objects of art's desire; Twiggy on Broadway. **Obituary, page 14** Count Rastall; Mr Charles Clements

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Thatcher urged to end speculation before local polling

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

There is a growing belief in some quarters of the Conservative Party that the Prime Minister has misjudged public speculation over the date of the general election and so narrowed rather than widened her room for manoeuvre.

The particular complaint, voiced both by some who want a June election and some who prefer October or later, is that expectation has been encouraged that an announcement of some kind is to be made in the next ten days or so, once the results of the English and Welsh district elections next Thursday have been assessed.

If that proves true, the party fears that Mrs Margaret Thatcher will have needlessly exposed herself to a charge of cowardice or opportunism or both, whatever decision she then makes.

Several ministers, including some who have her ear, now say that the Prime Minister can only avoid this trap by stating her intentions before the local election results have been declared.

Backbench Conservatives on either side of the argument for and against a June election have expressed opinions on these lines to their whips in the course of this week.

Central to their argument is the view that the local elections are unlikely to convey any clear message. The assessment exercise carried out by Conservative Central Office is a daunting one, with votes being cast in 12,000 different wards.

Local government elections produce a far lower turn-out than general elections, with

Labour voters more liable to abstain than Conservatives. An adjustment must be made to measure the true Conservative strength, but no one knows what that adjustment should be.

Other allowances have to be made for the greater importance of a candidate's personal qualities in local elections and the greater number of real or notional independent candidates.

In all, the most skilful analysis of next week's results is unlikely to tell the Prime Minister anything certain and her decision whether to go to the country in June will have to be based on her wider political judgment.

Difficult though that judgment may be, Mrs Thatcher's supporters believe that she has everything to gain by making and announcing a decision in the next few days.

They expect her to base that decision on a cool calculation of when she would have the best chance of winning, but they want her also to have some chance of pretending more disinterested motives.

Meanwhile the ranks of Conservatives who favour delay appear to have grown this week with the growing belief that real economic recovery may have begun.

Speaking at the Cutlers' Feast in Sheffield last night, the Prime Minister said that things were looking up and invited her hosts to look forward to the future with some optimism. She cited the evidence of confidence in the most recent

survey by the Confederation of British Industry, and the "excellent" first quarter results from ICI, with profits up from £62m to £128m. Even steel production was recovering, Mrs Thatcher said, and things were moving ahead.

In the Commons Mr Leon Brittan, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said that in recent weeks there had been a number of encouraging indicators pointing to modest economic recovery. They included evidence of higher manufacturing production and total output and a substantial improvement in business confidence, which was at its highest level since 1976.

Mr Robin Cook, an opposition Treasury spokesman, accused Mr Brittan of smug satisfaction at the ruin which his policies had wrought on British industry.

At Prime Minister's Question Time the prelection sparring waned. The Opposition accused Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, of trying to smear leaders of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

The Prime Minister, in an argument about rates, declared that Labour-controlled local authorities were "very big spenders of other people's money".

Mr Michael Foot, stopped her short by asking how much rates had increased in true-blue Surrey. They were much too high in Surrey, Mrs Thatcher had to confess.

Hard left's campaign, page 2

Judge refuses ban on suicide booklet

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Voluntary Euthanasia Society formerly known as EVEL, intends to continue to supply its suicide booklet after a High Court judge yesterday refused to grant the Attorney General a declaration that its distribution was illegal.

Mr Justice Woolf ruled that in some circumstances supply of a Guide to Self-Deliverance would amount to a criminal offence under the Suicide Act 1961, which prohibits aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring a suicide. But he would not make a blanket declaration which would effectively amount to a ban.

It would be wrong, he said, for the civil court to usurp the task of a jury in a criminal court and declare what conduct was criminal. Each case would have to be decided on its facts. Far from precipitating a suicide, the booklet might in some cases deter someone from committing suicide.

The ruling, which the judge said either side could appeal against, opens the way for Sir Michael Havers QC, the Attorney General, to bring a criminal prosecution over the booklet which has been linked to at least 15 deaths.

But Miss Barbara Smoker, chairman of the society's executive committee, said: "Obviously we do not want to break the law in this matter. But I do not think we would be

frightened of a criminal prosecution as such, although we would be frightened of a case hand-picked by the police to show us up in a bad light, we act for the benefit of people and cannot afford that sort of wrong image."

Welcoming the judge's ruling that publication was not illegal in itself and that the booklet "provides a satisfactory treatment of the subject which would not be easy to improve upon," Miss Smoker said that "in all probability" the society would continue to supply the booklet.

But she added that it might broaden the undertaking that recipients have to give, to the effect that they had no immediate intention of taking their lives. "It would seem that we can supply the booklet to those we know have no present intention to commit suicide."

"The Attorney General's attempt to ban the booklet has failed and the society now calls upon the Government to amend the law to allow those who are incurably ill or disabled to take their own lives if they wish," she said.

Although the society had raised £14,000 from its members for a fighting fund, the judge yesterday ordered the Attorney General to bear both sides' costs in the case.

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Law Report, page 14

ICI boosts hopes on economy

The stock market surged to within a fraction of its record high yesterday as the leaders of Britain's biggest industrial companies confirmed that the economy is on the mend and the Prime Minister forecast lower interest rates.

At its peak in early afternoon the FT ordinary index was 3.6 points up at 702.6 after ICI astonished even the most optimistic forecasters with profits for the first three months of the year which had more than doubled.

Mr John Harvey-Jones, ICI chairman, reported that the company made £128m between January and March against just £62m in the equivalent period of 1982.

But profit-taking dampened down the euphoria in late dealings and at the close the market had slipped back to 696.8, down 2.2 on the day.

In the Commons, Mrs Thatcher said that real interest rates should decline in the wake of further falls in the rate of inflation.

Taking its cue from the Prime Minister and the recent strength of sterling the Bank of England unveiled a new £1 billion indexed gilt stock, which the City immediately dubbed "election tap" because it has been constructed in such a way as to be attractive even if there were a change of government.

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Business News, page 17

Police consider kidnap charges

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

At her home in Hackney, east London, Mr Geoffrey Gordon, the family solicitor said: "She needs a lot of rest and there will obviously be mental scars."

Mrs Goodwin, aged 40, was found wandering in the street in Mitcham, south London, still in the night dress and dressing gown in which she disappeared on Thursday evening last week. She was helped into Mitcham police station shortly after 11 pm by a passerby.

Mr Gordon said Mrs Goodwin, the mother of three children, was at first "in a dazed and mentally battered condition. She is now more composed mentally but is extremely tired and not able to

cope with normal incidents of life". She was also, he said, still "weak on her pins".

News of her release was passed to her husband John, who is in prison. Early yesterday morning Mr Goodwin was taken from his cell at Wandsworth Prison and connected by telephone with his wife at Scotland Yard.

The couple spoke for 15 minutes and Mr Goodwin was said to be relieved by his wife's release.

During the past week Mr Goodwin had been advising his family and the police in the handling of the kidnapping and negotiations. Yesterday Scotland Yard said they were still searching for two men

arose during the Soviet gas pipeline dispute.

The British Government has protested about the investigation, and its team led by Mr Handley Stevens, Under-Secretary at the Department of Trade, has argued against the applicability of US anti-trust law.

The Justice Department has refused to comment publicly on the case, but the investigation could lead to charges and financial assessments against British assets in the United States. These could have



Mr Robert Dillan, US Ambassador to Beirut, pointing out the Embassy bomb damage to Mr Shultz.

Syria blamed for deadlock as Shultz shuttle begins

From Our Correspondent, Beirut

Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, held five-hour talks at the hilltop Presidential palace in eastern Beirut yesterday in a Middle East peace mission which is emerging as a high-level negotiating shuttle.

United States officials revealed en route to Beirut from Jerusalem that Mr Shultz expects to have about 10 meetings over the next two weeks with Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister.

"I am here to bring these negotiations closer to a successful conclusion... I am here to help in the process of working out an agreement for the leaving of all foreign forces from Lebanon," Mr Shultz said on landing at the heavily guarded Beirut airport. He intends to shuttle between Israel and Lebanese capitals until the basis of an agreement is reached.

Mr Shultz flew by helicopter to see the devastation at the American Embassy in West Beirut which was badly damaged by a powerful bomb explosion on April 18.

A British Embassy official said that some American Embassy officials were

working out of the British Embassy about 700 yards away, guarded by four armoured military vehicles.

Mr Shultz then drove to the presidential palace in the suburb of Baabda, southeast of Beirut, for his meeting with Mr Amin Gemayel, the Lebanese President and Mr Elie Salem, Foreign Minister. He was accompanied by Mr Philip Habib, the special American envoy to the Middle East, and by Mr Morris Draper, the chief American negotiator at the troop withdrawal talks between Lebanon, Israel and the United States.

After the meeting Mr Shultz said: "This has been a very rewarding day... And of course a moving day in visiting our employees at the American Embassy and seeing that sight and rewarding in talking with President Gemayel and Foreign Minister Elie Salem and their colleagues."

He added: "We had a very full review of all the issues here just as we did in Israel. I can see that there are quite a number of difficult issues. At least I think we can now have some sense of definition of them."

Earlier, Mr Salem told a

group of reporters that Lebanon refused to sign an agreement with Israel that could in any way harm its relations with the Arabs and specifically with Syria.

He also acknowledged that the future status of Major Saad Haddad, the renegade Lebanese Army commander whose militia in South Lebanon is backed by Israel, remained a sticking point in the negotiations. He said another stumbling block was the issue of joint Lebanese-Israeli patrols in South Lebanon.

He said that Lebanon would demand an American presence in any joint committee established with Israel to oversee the terms of a withdrawal agreement, saying Israel does not want Americans on all of the proposed supervising bodies.

The negotiations have been dragging on for the past four months and any optimism expressed by either the Lebanese or Israeli side in the past few weeks has now been dampened by the tough stance adopted by the Syrian government. American officials said privately the Syrian position appears aimed at blocking a

Continued on back page, col 5

Nazi 'fake factory' denied

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

East Germany refused yesterday to be drawn into the Hitler diaries controversy, and denied accusations that a Potsdam factory was turning out forged Nazi documents. The publication of the diaries in the West German magazine Stern has led to their authenticity and to reports of an East German factory.

The Foreign Ministry in East Berlin said: "We have nothing to do with the Hitler diaries affair and their publication in Stern."

Several left-wing West German commentators have attacked the publication of the diaries on the ground that they will inevitably lead to a new Hitler myth.

The Greens party said irrespectively of whether the diaries were genuine, their only aim was to whitewash Hitler. "It is our task to oppose this falsification of history with all our force," Frau Manon Grisebach, the chairman, said.

Frenchmen hanged in Zimbabwe

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

Two Frenchmen, former mercenaries in the Rhodesian forces, were hanged at dawn here yesterday for the murder of a café owner in 1981. The hangings went ahead in spite of appeals by the French Government for clemency and three recent meetings between French and Zimbabwean officials both here and in Paris.

Gevaïs Boutanquoui, who was 34, and Simon Chemouli, aged 29, were the first whites to be executed since Zimbabwe's independence three years ago.

Only two other men of about twenty sentenced to death in that time have been hanged. The remainder had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment by President Canaan Banana.

Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, has frequently expressed opposition to capital punishment but in October last year two black men convicted of murder and robbery went to the gallows.

Boutanquoui and Chemouli were found guilty in the High Court 14 months ago of stabbing and shooting Herr Erhard Kraft, a café owner in the northern town of Karoi, and robbing him of about \$2800 (£530).

● Murder planned: Confirming the hanging, a Justice Ministry spokesman recalled that the two had planned the murder of Herr Kraft in order to rob him, AFP reports.

The two men and two other French former mercenaries sentenced to lesser penalties in connection with the killing came to what was then Rhodesia in 1977 to fight for the white minority regime.

They were part of an 80-strong French-speaking mercenary unit of the Rhodesian Army that was dissolved in 1978.

Navy will stop relatives at sea

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain has warned Senor Osvaldo Destefanis, who is threatening to take a boatload of Argentines to visit soldiers' graves on the Falkland Islands, that they will not be allowed to land.

Senor Destefanis says the ship will sail tomorrow, although the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has withdrawn its support. But the Foreign Office, in its sternest declaration so far on the issue, said last night that there could be no question of the British Government granting access to the disputed islands.

Officials would not elaborate but the clear inference is that Royal Navy ships patrolling a 150-mile exclusion zone around the Falklands would turn away the Argentine vessel.

The Foreign Office statement said that Whitehall was still receiving reports that Senor Destefanis was persisting with his plans, despite the ICRC's view that these were "contrary to the principle of neutrality," which the Red Cross was called upon to defend.

The Government had insisted all along that it had no objection to a visit provided that it was organized by the ICRC as a purely humanitarian venture, but the arrangements made by Senor Destefanis had been judged unacceptable by the ICRC "for reasons of principle". It was therefore unacceptable to the British Government.

Whitehall still hopes that the relatives will not sail tomorrow as planned, because it would be extremely embarrassing if the Royal Navy had to be seen refusing passage to a party of mourners.

Senor Destefanis himself had promised that he would avoid any confrontation and would hold a service at sea outside the 150-mile limit if barred from sailing further.

But even this would be seen as unwelcome publicity for Britain.

Police raids 'breached the law'

The Home Secretary last night published a unique report from the Police Complaints Board, which drew attention to grave and exceptional circumstances surrounding the 1981 police raids in Raiton Road, Brixton, south London (Anthony Bevins writes).

The undated report, delivered to Mr Whitelaw last year, said that the board had been concerned with "breaches of the law" and "the implication that the unprofessional conduct of officers engaged on that operation could be a reflection of their conduct of less sensitive occasions."

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CND to appoint worker who will canvass poll candidates' attitudes

By Nicholas Thomas

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is to appoint a full-time worker for the general election campaign. The job will include maintaining a register of the views of all MPs and candidates on nuclear weapons and disarmament issues.

When the campaign starts, CND will use the register to publicize the views of all candidates in the constituencies, concentrating particularly on marginal seats, to let voters know where individual candidates stand.

Mr Bruce Kent, general secretary of CND, said yesterday: "There is no question that CND is a political movement since it seeks social change; but it is not a party political movement."

"We will make known the views of candidates and urge people to vote for the candidate whom, in their opinion, will work most effectively to end the arms race. It will be for the voters to decide."

CND's policy is that it will not endorse any individual party or candidate although Mrs Joan Ruddock, CND's chairwoman has said that the campaign has to create a position where people who support CND's aims cannot vote Conservative,

unless the individual Conservative candidate disagrees with his party's policies on nuclear weapons.

The post of election worker will last for one year, at CND's standard salary of £7,200, taking the campaign's full-time staff to 29. The job's other responsibilities will include liaising with and briefing MPs, organizing lobbies of Parliament, assisting local groups during the election and liaising with CND's specialist political party sections, which include Labour, SDP, Liberal and "Green CND".

Mr Kent was still declining yesterday to discuss Cardinal Hume's statement on his position in CND. But it is understood that after careful thought he intends to continue in his post, with the cardinal's permission.

Up to 200 people from the British peace movement, trade unions and the Labour Party are expected to attend the second European nuclear disarmament convention in Berlin next month.

The convention between May 9 and 14, is expected to attract more than 2,000 representatives of western European peace

movements and some representatives of western European governments.

Mr Kent representatives of the Greenham Common peace camp and a delegation of seven from the Transport and General Workers' Union are expected to attend, as will Mr Mervyn Evans, general secretary of the TGWU and Mr Wedgwood Benn.

Mr Benn said that recent events had confirmed the power of the peace movement in Britain. There had been the attempt to punish the Citizens' Advice Bureau, because Mrs Ruddock worked for them; Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, had tried to imply that CND was Soviet-dominated and there had been the pressure applied over Mr Kent's position with CND.

Women from Greenham Common and the women's peace movement yesterday announced their plans for an international women's day of action on May 24. They are hoping that trade unionists and others will take the day off to take part in dozens of small-scale demonstrations.

See Gillman, page 12
Letters, page 13



Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, the world ice dance champion skaters, who were made honorary freemen of the city of Nottingham yesterday.

Earlier this year, they won the world ice dance championship for the third successive time. They hope this year to win a gold medal at the winter Olympics.

7,000 more teaching jobs may disappear but colleges expand

By Sarah Baylis, Times Educational Supplement

More than 5,500 teachers' jobs disappeared from the payrolls of three-quarters of local councils in the last financial year. A further 5,000 look set to be cut from the same areas in the next 12 months, according to a survey of 76 local education authorities conducted by The Times Educational Supplement.

On the basis of the ample, the jobs of 7,000 teachers throughout England and Wales could disappear in 1983-84.

In contrast to the schools, where pupil numbers are falling, colleges of further education expect to employ 1,000 new lecturers in the next 12 months to teach the swelling ranks of 16 to 19 year olds. About 500 extra college posts were found to have been created last year.

There were no compulsory redundancies last year and chief education officers do not expect to dispute anyone because spending cuts or falling pupil numbers over the next year.

Some of the jobs in schools disappeared through redeployment, but most went through premature retirement; last year 6,350 older teachers left the profession early with enhanced pension rights. Given the net reduction of 5,500 jobs in 1982-83, some vacancies were clearly filled through the promotion of younger teachers.

For individual teachers who face an uncertain future and for

parents who see schools closing and specialist staff disappearing, the reductions may seem harsh. But they are still not high enough in terms of plans set out by the Department of Education in the White Paper *The Government's Expenditure Plans 1983-4 to 1985-6* (Cmd 8789-II).

The White Paper envisaged a cut of 11,000 for 1983-84; given the corresponding drop in pupil numbers, it said that that could mean a very slight improvement in pupil-teacher ratios.

The survey found that half the education authorities in England and Wales plan to spend slightly more on education in the next 12 months than in 1982-83. Four out of 10 plan to spend less and one in ten plans to spend the same amount. The changes range from a 6.6 per cent increase in Dudley to a 2.9 per cent decrease in Stockport.

Two-thirds of the authorities in the sample will be "over-spent" in 1983-84 because their total spending on all services is in breach of government targets. They will be penalized by losing rate support grant. The picture would be much bleaker if interest rates and inflation had not fallen over the past year.

Most authorities are spending at least five per cent more on books and equipment. A third of the authorities are increasing education for children with special needs.

Traffic warden wins claim

From Our Correspondent Nottingham

Mr John Hancock, a traffic warden who was dismissed for being rude to motorists, won his claim for unfair dismissal yesterday. He is expected to receive £500 compensation.

Miss Norah Healey, chairman of the Nottingham industrial tribunal, said the panel thought Mr Hancock was 80 per cent to blame for his dismissal, but she added that the panel was concerned that Mr Tony Tyler, deputy chief constable of Nottinghamshire, had treated the case as gross misconduct.

Mr Hancock, aged 56, a traffic warden for 15 years, said afterwards: "Some firms sack employees for not working, but I have been sacked for working. I enjoyed serving the public."

He estimated he had issued 12,000 parking tickets and reported another 5,000 offences. "After this case I don't think any traffic warden will want to do a lot of work."

Mr Hancock, of Selwyn Close, West Bridgford, Nottingham, who was dismissed in August 1981, after repeated complaints from the public, will not be reappointed.

At an earlier hearing, Superintendent Charles Causley, his former superior, said: "He could detect offences better than any policeman we had, but he just didn't know how to be nice to people."

"He had an insatiable appetite for reporting offences. He would stand at a strategic point, usually at Trent Bridge, Nottingham, for two hours and fill his book with traffic offences."



Mr John Hancock: Issued 12,000 tickets

Man made wife pay him to decorate

Mr William Broadhurst was so mean that he charged his wife £5 for redecorating the living-room ceiling. The only time he gave her a lift to work in his car, she paid for the petrol. He collected 50p a week from his family to pay for the electricity used by the television, a divorce judge said in London yesterday.

Mr Justice Easham granted Mrs Theodora Broadhurst, aged 56, a decree nisi against her "very selfish and insensitive" husband on the ground that their marriage had irretrievably broken down because of his unreasonable behaviour.

"The judge in the Family Division, said Mr Broadhurst, aged 65, made his family pay towards the cost of installing a shower, even though their house in Brewery Road, Plumstead, south-east London, did not have a bath.

When one of his two married daughters visited his old home, she was charged 5p for having a shower.

"This matter illustrates with perfect clarity the meanness of this man," the judge said.

Mr Broadhurst opposed his wife's divorce petition, because if she succeeded, she would have a claim on the house, the judge said. If he had won, he would be entitled to stay in the house, without any claim against it.

He admitted that the marriage had irretrievably broken down, but denied it was caused by his behaviour. The judge said Mr Broadhurst, a retired bricklayer, was interested only in cars and playing golf and bowls.

Mr Broadhurst agreed there was a "mutual dislike for each other," but claimed he was a "hen-pecked" man in the house.

Sexual contact between the couple stopped at the end of 1974. Mrs Broadhurst was the "warmer of the two" and try to persuade her husband to have sexual intercourse. But he used to say he was too tired, the judge said.

Outside the court, Mrs Broadhurst, who now lives with a relative, said: "I am pleased I have got a divorce at last. I have been married to a meanness since the end of the war."

He notes that the Law Society is revising its *Guide to the Professional Conduct of Solicitors* and says further judgment will be suspended until new measures relating to incompetence are announced.

Delays and lack of information are still a "frequent and well-justified cause of complaint" from the public against solicitors, he says. "I have been dismayed at the overall time taken to bring some matters to a conclusion."

Eight annual report of the Law Society (Stationery Office, £2.25)

Most solicitors did correct mistakes at their own expense.

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Solvent clue to deaths of two boys

From Craig Seton Western-Super-Mare

Two boys aged 15 who were found dead in a garden shed yesterday may have been sniffing solvents.

Michael Munns, described as a good samaritan by neighbours, and Ian Kirt, his friend, were found slumped in the shed at the back of the Munnses' home in Cleveland Road, Western-Super-Mare, Avon, by two other schoolboys.

The police were called but several attempts to revive the boys were unsuccessful. Clothing and blankets were taken away for examination and the police would not comment on the cause of death until post-mortem examinations had been carried out.

Mr Dennis Kirt, father of Ian Kirt, said yesterday: "We are being told that the police have taken away samples of solvent. From that point of view to say it is solvent abuse is speculation and we are waiting for the pathologist's report."

A neighbour of Michael Munns said: "We cannot believe it. He was such a cheerful, bright lad, and was always willing to help."

He had been helping his father, who works for a building firm, to extend their home.

Children and staff at Wyvern School in Western-Super-Mare, which both boys attended, were stunned by their death. Mr Geoffrey Crump, director of education for Avon, said yesterday: "This is a desperate tragedy and the authority has enormous sympathy with the family."

"The incident took place outside school time and is in the hands of the police."

Banker to chair Nature Conservancy Council

By Our Environment Correspondent

A London banker who runs a Welsh sheep farm as a nature reserve is to be the next chairman of the Nature Conservancy Council. He is William Wilkinson, aged 50, brother of Mr John Wilkinson, Conservative MP for Hillingdon, Rushmore, Northwood.

The new chairman, who will take over next Tuesday, described himself yesterday as a "floating voter" who had never belonged to a political party. "I have always been interested in wildlife, the countryside and their conservation," he said.

He will succeed Sir Ralph Verney, aged 68, a former president of the County Landowners Association, who is about to end a three-year term as chairman. Mr Wilkinson will serve for four years.

Ministers reject the claim of naturalists that Sir Ralph has been dismissed because of his robust defence of Somerset bird refuges against pressure from farmers and Conservative MPs.

Mr Wilkinson's wide interests bridge the two competing lobbies of farmers and naturalists which make opposing demands on the council, a quango which administers wildlife law.

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Television's newcomer is winning friends

By Kenneth Gough

Channel 4, six months old next week and now well established in the ratings after a shaky start, is still enjoying the confidence of the independent television companies in spite of the strain it places on their finances.

The 15 companies are bearing the brunt of the channel's costs without getting back anything like the total £138m outlay in advertising revenue, mainly due to the dispute over advertising fees for actors.

Thames Television, for example, would have made a profit before its levy payment of £20m to £30m this year, but that potential profit has become a predicted loss of between £2m and £3m. Thames pays the highest Channel 4 subscription of £21.6m.

Company executives were unwilling yesterday to reopen old arguments about whether Channel 4 should have been controlled by the independent television companies rather than becoming a subsidiary of the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA).

Mr Hugh Dundas, chairman of Thames Television, said: "There is no point in saying what might have happened. We in the 15 companies and the Independent Television News had all the facilities and expertise. But we went into the current franchise knowing what was to happen and that is now

water under the bridge. Our ambition is to see it work."

Yorkshire Television, sixth in the subscription list on £13.6m, was losing £1m a month earlier this year in terms of the discrepancy between what it has to pay for Channel 4 and the revenue it draws from advertising.

Now that figure has been reduced to £750,000, partly, Yorkshire says, because Channel 4 revenue has increased, but also because the IBA has deferred the collection of some of the interest on the amount the companies owe on the first year's subscriptions to the channel.

Mr Paul Fox, managing director and director of programmes at Yorkshire, who is a senior figure in the industry, discounted reports that the companies wanted either to see Channel 4 go out of business or to stage a takeover.

He said: "We support it wholeheartedly and continue to wish it well. Obviously life would be much easier without the advertising dispute, and God knows when the end of that will come, but the company is performing well and its closure has never been discussed."

"Frustration over the Equity Institute of Practitioners in

advertising dispute is expressed by Granada, one of the "big five" companies in the regions. Mr Peter Rennie, sales director, said much more revenue would have been generated had it not been for the dispute.

Mr Timothy Knowles, assistant managing director and finance director of HTV, was emphatic that even with an immediate resolution of the dispute, there would be no significant increase in the overall income from advertising. "Because the money we have lost on Channel 4 and S4C has simply been moved into ITV."

Last month the companies had the consolation of seeing their general revenue from advertising increase to £73m, £15.5m more than in February and nearly £20m more than in April last year.

That lends support to the view of Mr John Birt, director of programmes, London Weekend Television, that the people in Independent Television are confident that the present difficulties will have evaporated in a couple of years. But he added that companies such as LWT are going to have to rethink fundamentals in a system that has not had to do it for quite some time.

"As for Channel 4, to be successful it needs, on average, for everyone who watches television to tune into it for two hours a week."

PM asserts: 'We are the true peace movement'

NUCLEAR DEBATE

The Conservatives were the true peace movement, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, declared in the Commons during questions about Labour's defence policy and about the politics of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Mrs Thatcher denied that Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, had spoken to Cardinal Hume or any other church or religious leaders about the CND. She hoped there would be an early Commons debate on defence matters and also promised that the Conservatives would keep defence at the forefront of the political agenda.

Mr David Tripper (Rensselaire, C) asked her: Has she studied the essay written by Mr Denis Healey, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party and spokesman of foreign affairs in the book *Renewal: Labour's Britain in the 1980s*?

Does she not find it strange in that essay on foreign affairs that Mr Healey never referred once to Labour policy on withdrawal from the Common Market and the removal of nuclear weapons and bases?

It would be far better if Mr Healey came clean and renounced those policies, which he knows would be a disaster for this country, Mrs Thatcher agreed that it would be a disaster to withdraw from Europe or to abandon our nuclear weapons. The one would have a devastating effect on industry and the other would show that we were not prepared to defend ourselves.

I have not read the essays but I do not share Mr Tripper's surprise, Mr

Healey always seems able to model his views to Labour policy, whatever that may be.

Mr Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington, C) in two recent evenings' canvassing with an excellent Conservative candidate in the Grange ward of Christchurch who had the largest council housing estate in his constituency, has come across a number of erstwhile Labour voters who have expressed their grave concern and disillusion with Labour support of CND.

Will she therefore do everything to encourage Comrade Kent and his socialist cohorts to keep defence at the forefront of debate?

Mrs Thatcher: We shall keep defence at the forefront. They are vital for the security of our way of life and the people of this country, and for our international standing.

I hope that soon there will be a full debate in the House.

Mr Tom Clarke (Coatbridge and Airdrie, Lab): There is a widespread concern about defence, as recent remarks by Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, distinguished representatives of the Church of Scotland, the Episcopal Church and Roman Catholic Church have taken exception to the smear of the peace movement.

Mrs Thatcher: Mr Heseltine has had no conversations with Cardinal Hume or with the head of any other church or religious organization.

About his other revelations about the leaders of the CND, I fail to see how anyone should be blamed for revealing the facts.

Mr Robin Maxwell-Hyslop (Tiverton, C): The best credentials for



Maxwell-Hyslop: Policies have kept the peace

leading the peace movement are to have been responsible for carrying out policies which have preserved peace.

By those credentials, she and the five preceding prime ministers, who have kept Britain in NATO and kept nuclear weapons, have demonstrated that they lead the true movement for peace.

When she asked the Government to reconsider the possibility of assistance for such visits, Lord Glenarthur informed her: We have no plans to reconsider offering visits at public expense to servicemen's graves overseas to the next of kin of such servicemen buried before the current arrangements were introduced in 1967.

Lady Jeger (Lab) of being "totally insensitive" to the feelings of many families of men killed in wars other than the Falklands campaign.

Will the Government look again at this with some sensitivity and sympathy to people who feel equally bereaved wherever their loved ones were killed and whatever date it happened?

Lord Glenarthur: All will share his feelings of sympathy with those who have died in all wars. The sacrifices of those in the last war were as great as those who died in the Falklands. I know this is keenly felt by many.

Of course the Government would like to be able to offer a visit at public expense to the close relatives of servicemen buried overseas. But the simple fact that it is a matter of scale and practicality. There are just too many people involved to make it a feasible proposition.

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Too many involved for visits to graves

WAR WIDOWS

There were just too many people involved to make it a feasible proposition for the Government to offer visits at public expense to servicemen's graves overseas to the next of kin of such servicemen buried before the current arrangements were introduced in 1967.

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State cash for research project

TECHNOLOGY

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry, outlined in a Commons statement a joint research programme into information technology (IT) which is expected to cost up to £350m. The programme is to involve industry, research institutions and the Government.

Mr Jenkin said, he said, the first time there had been a collaborative research project on this scale.

The statement was made in response to the report of the Alvey Committee.

Mr Jenkin said: The Alvey Committee set up last year in response to the request of the IT industry to investigate the scope for a collaborative research programme in advanced information technology in the light of mounting concern in the industry at the increasing threat of overseas competition.

After detailed consultations with industry I am now able to announce the Government's response.

The future competitiveness of our IT industry is a subject to which we attach the utmost importance. The report outlines the key enabling technologies in which the IT industry must maintain and strengthen its competitive position in world markets.

There is a need for collaboration between industry, academic institutions and other research organizations in order fully to mobilize our potential in these technologies. The task is beyond the resources of any single enterprise.

The central purpose is to pave the way for IT products, IT processes and IT services which can be sold in the market in competition with the rest of the world.

We therefore accept Alvey's recommendation to establish a programme of collaborative research concentrated on the four main areas of technology set out in the report. These areas are software engineering, very large scale integration that is advanced chips, machine interfaces, and intelligent knowledge based systems.

Industry has realized the need for collaborative research in these areas, and it is ready to take part in such a programme. This positive involvement of industry in the funding, management and execution of the programme is crucial to its success.

The key feature of the programme will be collaboration between companies, Government research establishments, and academic institutions.

Work carried out in scientific institutions will be as usual be funded 100 per cent by government.

In the case of work carried out in industry, Alvey recommended that most of this should be 50 per cent government funded, but that some projects should attract 90 per cent funding. We have considered this last recommendation closely, but have decided that 90 per cent government funding does not secure a sufficient industrial commitment and could lead to the programme becoming divorced from industry's needs. I have, therefore, decided that all industrial work should be 50 per cent government funded.

Cooperation taking part will be required to release know-how and to share results with their project partners. They will also be expected to license results on reasonable conditions to others in the programme, and to organizations outside the programme where this is needed to secure exploitation.

The report estimated that the research would cost about £350m over five years. The Government stands ready to support a programme of research on this scale. However, the extent of the Government's contribution to the programme depends upon industry making its contribution and upon the programme's technical progress.

The report proposed that academic research should attract some £20m of research over five years, and industry the remaining £330m. The full cost of this to Government would be around £200m.

This money will be provided by the Department of Industry, the Department of Education and Science and the Ministry of Defence, and over the PES period, will not add to existing liabilities.

The Department of Education and Science will fund research through the Science and Engineering Research Council, mainly in the universities. The Ministry of Defence will fund research of particular importance to our future defence industry. The Department of Industry will provide the major portion of the Government's funds and will carry overall responsibility for the management of the programme.

A new, small, directorate will be established in the Department of Industry to coordinate the programme. It will be headed by Mr Brian Oakes, currently Secretary of the Science and Engineering Research Council. It will be staffed by people from the industry and supported by the Government.

The involvement of industry will ensure that the results as they emerge are fully exploited here in Britain to the advantage of our economy. Information technology is one of the most important industries of the future and therefore one upon which hundreds of thousands of jobs in the future will depend.

Collaboration will ensure that the results of the research are widely disseminated particularly to smaller firms which have such an important contribution to make to the industry.

No one can guarantee success, but the Government is convinced that this programme will ensure for British industry secure access to the new technology and to the products and processes on which our future prosperity depends.

programme, yet much innovation comes from these companies.

Alvey proposed the 90 per cent funding specifically to assist dissemination of key technologies. Will the spread of new systems be hindered by the penny-pinching restriction of funding to 50 per cent?

What are the implications for the education system? Alvey said it was not good just providing schools with micro-computers when what was needed was a massive expansion of teacher training, including 500 new trained personnel, 150 new academic posts and 800 new undergraduate places.

What is the Government's policy on the multinationals? Alvey said they should participate in the programme only where it is guaranteed that valuable technical information will not leak abroad. Mr Jenkin said the decision not to accept the Alvey 90 per cent figure where small companies would be interested, this is in no sense penny-pinching. This is not to save expenditure - the Government's commitment will be approaching 60 per cent of the total amount involved.

We want to make sure that the Government's involvement in this research would have sufficient direct interest to make sure that it remained always relevant to the market.

The programme provides for the training in the necessary skills. It is designed to go hand in hand with the Secretary of State for Education and Science's information technology "New Blood" initiative which has already been announced.

On multinationals, all companies taking part in the programme will be required to meet the same general conditions: they must have the research expertise to carry out the work; they must be ready to accept the rules under the intellectual property rights; and they must exploit the technology arising from the programme in the United Kingdom.

We will require clear and categorical assurances that the work done here does not leak overseas to benefit Britain's competitors. This whole programme will be an enormous advantage to Britain's IT industry.

Mr John Groat (Ilkington, Central, SDP): The statement shows a surprising degree of complacency. By short changing industry in this way does he intend to encourage it to compete adequately with the highly government backed industries of Japan and West Germany?

Mr Jenkin: I do not see how he can describe as short changing industry the programme I have announced.

Labour loves spending other people's money

RATING SYSTEM

Labour-controlled local authorities were very big spenders of other people's money, Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during noisy exchanges with Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, over the level of rates.

She denied that the Conservative Party had made a promise to abolish the rating laws and condemned the 18 largest overspenders among local authorities, which were all Labour-controlled.

Mr Alan Belch (Barnack, Con) asked her: Has she asked if the rating system as she did previously? Would it be on the basis of the plan she had in mind then, or was she going to promise merely to reform the system?

Mrs Thatcher: There was no promise to abolish the rating system. (Opposition interruptions) It was clear that their reduction of income tax would have to come first. He will have to wait and see exactly what we say about rates when the time comes.

Mr Sydney Chapman (Barnet, Chipping Barnet, C) will look at recently-published statistics which show that the average rate payable by Labour-controlled boroughs are no less than 50 per cent higher than Conservative-controlled boroughs. The equivalent figure in the Metropolitan Councils is 25 per cent, as it is in the shires.

The best advice to people is to vote Conservative to get their rates down. (Conservative cheers.)

Mrs Thatcher: Many Labour-controlled authorities are very big

spenders of other people's money. This year the 18 largest overspenders are all Labour-controlled authorities. It is the duty of councils to be careful how they spend the ratepayers' money and show they give value for it.

Mr Foot: If she is now showing a renewed interest in the rating system, how much have rates increased under her Government? Mrs Thatcher: Too much, especially in Labour-controlled authorities.

Mr Foot: Rates have increased in general over the country under her Government, by 75 per cent. How much could they have been reduced if she had not cut the rate support grant? (Labour cheers)

Mrs Thatcher: Rates are highest in Labour-controlled areas. The 18 largest overspenders are the Greater London Council, the Inner London Education Authority, the West Midlands, Greater Manchester, Avon, Merseyside, South West, Sheffield, Tyne and Wear... (the rest of the names were lost amid loud Conservative cheers and Labour interruptions.)

Labour loves spending other people's money.

Mr Foot: How much have rates increased in Surrey, controlled by the Conservatives?

Mrs Thatcher: They are much too high in Surrey. (Labour laughter.)

Mr Foot: The way of trying to get public expenditure in the local authorities reduced was the new system for the rate support grant. On average, this year rates increased by 6.5 per cent. Had the two biggest spenders - the GLC and ILEA - been on their targets, there would have been an average virtually no rate increases this year.

War hero's widow being helped

SALE OF VC

The Government had an excellent record on war widows, and the excellence of that record would continue in future, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during Commons questions about the sale by Mrs Muriel Nicholson of her late husband's Victoria Cross.

Wing Commander James Nicholson, who died in a plane crash in 1945, had won the VC during the Battle of Britain as a fighter pilot - the only one to win a VC in that battle. The Nicholson family had put the medal up for public sale deliberately to draw attention to what they felt to be the Government's inattention to Second World War widows.

The matter was raised by Mr John Askey (Stoke-on-Trent, South, Lab) who said that one of the saddest sights of the past few days had been the sale of a Victoria Cross.

Will the Prime Minister consider initiating a wide-ranging review of the problems of these widows (he asked) so that they can be given the same kind of consideration, kindness and compassion previously shown to the widows of the Falklands campaign? Mrs Thatcher: This Government's record in improving the lot of war widows has been unsurpassed by any other government, including the Labour Government.

The increases we have given include a special one for old age and the fact that we have taken war widows completely out of taxation.

On that particular case, it is very sad that the VC has been sold.

We have looked into the case and Mrs Nicholson was visited. She was awarded a war widow's pension after the death of her husband. In the post-war period, the rate was increased for her son and his school fees were met under the war pensions scheme.

In addition to the standard pension she has received some help from the RAF Benevolent Fund. She has rank allowance and an age allowance. We were not aware that she needed further money.

We have an excellent record on war widows and I imagine that the excellence of that record will continue in future.

Jeger: Government insensitive to families

that the majority would have at least one surviving close relative who might wish to take up the offer of a visit. It was calculated there were just over 65,000 war widows' pensions in payment.

Phasing visits would not significantly ease the difficulties unless anyone concerned was offered a visit within a reasonable time scale. There would inevitably be charges of injustice.

There is no way (he said) of overcoming the problem because of the sheer scale. Stretching it over a period of years would not do so.

He told the Earl of Onslow (C): We do not have an estimate of the cost. It would be a very large sum indeed.

Family doctor service review

The administration of the family practitioner services in England and Wales is to be reviewed, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, announced in a written answer.

He said it was proposed to invite independent consultants, working with the Department of Health and Social Security and the Welsh Office, to undertake the review.

Projections for growth unchanged

THE ECONOMY

There was encouraging confirmation that the economy was recovering, but this had not yet been reflected in the country's projections for growth, Mr Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said in a Commons statement.

Mr Leon Brittan, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said in the Commons when asked if he would revise upwards his estimates for economic growth.

Over recent weeks, he added, a number of encouraging indicators had been pointing to a modest economic recovery. These included evidence that manufacturing production was increasing - up 1 per cent in the three months to February on the previous three months; the continuing growth in total output, now 2 per cent higher than in the spring of 1981; and a substantial improvement in business confidence.

When an analogy was conveyed from Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, for his absence as he was at a meeting in Washington of the Development Committee of the World Bank, Mr Leon Brittan (South Down, O) said the Chancellor would be better occupied answering questions in the House than being in Washington fixing plans to sustain unsustainable real and sound economies.

Mr Mark Lennex-Bond (Morecambe and Lunesdale, C): The evidence of the recent CBI survey and other favourable indicators are perhaps the reason for the Opposition's desperate concern to see a June election. They fear the situation will be even worse for them in the autumn.

Mr Brittan: That anxiety is well placed, because the CBI's latest industrial trends survey does show encouraging improvements in business optimism, which is at its highest level since 1976. That is

reflected not just in optimism but in improved order books.

There are numerous other indicators in the real world to show that it is only a few of the more headline Labour MPs who do not accept what is going on.

Mr Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley, L): What is the Government's message to those British manufacturers whose plans to expand in overseas markets are being hampered by the international situation of the pound sterling?

Mr Brittan: It is not the job of Government to give messages of this kind. It is the job of the Government to provide the right financial framework and the right balance of measures to encourage industry.

That is what has been done in the Budget relating to business, particularly small businesses, and it is the best possible encouragement that can be given to industry.

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs (Tower Hamlets, Stepney and Poplar, Lab): Mr Brittan's reply was well judged in his refusal to make any concession on the rate of growth of GDP in the economy of 2 per cent for this year and 2½ per cent for the second half of this year over the second half of 1982.

Can he explain, having I assume read the recent quarterly report of the CBI in which it is shown that 72 per cent of our firms are operating below capacity and only 4 per cent of our firms are operating at full capacity, why there is so much apparent optimism on the economy in the Government's statements at the present time? What is the real basis for this?

Mr Brittan: His question is as good an example of scraping the barrel as we shall see if he now seems to be challenging the fact that the economy is growing, but only welcoming the fact that we are not able to announce a faster rate of growth than we announced at the time of the Budget.

As for accounting for optimism, it is not difficult to understand why when British industry is showing increasing order books and increasing expectations.

I regard that as a good sign. The whole country does. The only

person who regards it as a bad sign is Mr Shore.

He said later that at the Williamsburg summit the Chancellor would be engaged in discussions with the other leaders of the G7, where possible, the countries of western Europe adopted policies on inflation and budget deficits which would enable the kind of progress not only in this country but in the United States and Germany to continue and not to be abortive.

Mr Joel Barnett (Heywood and Royton, Lab): How does he expect to sustain even the present modest recovery, without an increase in inflation?

Mr Brittan: I do not believe that the policy we have been following of restraint in monetary growth, which has led to a fall in inflation, will be reversed. The increase in activity which I have described is a result of the success of this policy. If we were to reverse it, the increase in production and output would not continue.

Mr Stephen Dorrell (Loughborough, C): It is not clear that the fluctuation in the exchange rate over the past two years has been a major impediment to the growth of world trade.

As we rely so heavily on an expanding base of world trade, is it not in our interest to work with our European and American partners for greater exchange rate stability?

Mr Brittan: We should seek to work with them and persuade them, as we have to a large extent been successful in doing, to pursue policies with regard to inflation and Budget deficits which would lead to stability in the exchange rate greater than we have had.

Mr Robin Cook, an Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs (Edinburgh, Central, Lab): If he is convinced that recovery is under way, when will manufacturing investment rise 37 per cent, and manufacturing output 22 per cent back to their 1979 levels, when will bank deposits fall by 67 per cent back to the 1979 level, and when will unemployment go down by two million to its 1979 level?

Mr Brittan: If he is trying to tell us that there has been a recession, we are well aware of that.

British key fitted US missile

DEFENCE

A serious incident involving Thor missiles in 1962 had only recently come to light, Mr David Owen (Plymouth, Devonport, SDP) said when he denounced the Labour emergency debate in the Commons on the desirability of a dual control key control mechanism for cruise missiles.

He said a Royal Air Force technician had discovered during routine servicing of an inert missile that a British key turned the United States Air Force lock.

The Prime Minister had confirmed to him details of the 1962 incident which had not been reported at the time to the government of the day. It had direct relevance to the debate about control of cruise missiles were they to be deployed in this country.

It was not sufficient to have confidence alone in the joint decision making of a President and a Prime Minister. The House should also have confidence in the actual launch control mechanism for British-based missiles.

After the RAF technician's discovery, a comprehensive check of the other missiles revealed that a British key fitted one other USAF lock.

As a direct consequence of its economic policies the Government had seen a decaying industry without example in the western world. Mr Robert Sheldon, an Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs (Aston-under-Lyne, C) said when the committee stage of the Finance Bill was resumed, he moved a new clause, considered with a similar Liberal-SDP amendment, to abolish the national insurance surcharge.

Labour move to abolish NIS

Police accept checks on computer records

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

The Merseyside police have accepted a stringent set of data protection safeguards, to win the support of its Labour-controlled county police committee for a project to computerize criminal records at an estimated cost of £3m.

Senior officers agreed to seven safeguards at a private meeting this week of the committee's computer panel. They strengthen a code of practice agreed last November when the authority approved a smaller project involving the conversion of records, held on paper or microfilm, to computer data.

The panel will recommend the full committee to invite tenders for the system, which will be limited to "criminal records" - facts about convictions. According to Mr John George, the panel chairman, the police have dropped original ideas that the computer should be used for "crime reporting" details of crimes for which no one has been convicted, and for "criminal intelligence" additional information gathered by officers about criminals' activities.

Panel members felt that the latter could become a threat to civil liberties.

The two most important safeguards agreed this week are that people will be allowed access to their files, if they want to check the accuracy of their own criminal records, and that an independent outside observer will monitor the system.

However, the agreement could be jeopardized if the Data Protection Bill, now going through Parliament, emerges in a form that would make the Merseyside safeguards illegal. In that case the committee might abandon the project, Mr George said.

Leaving criminal intelligence and crime reporting out of the only £150,000 out of the cost, likely to be about £3m, that is because the main cost will be to integrate the new system with Merseyside's advanced command and control computer, which came into operation last year.

Motor cycle ace never took test

From Our Correspondent Derby

Ron Haslam, aged 26, the motor cycle racing star, was fined £130 by magistrates in Ilkeston, Derbyshire, yesterday for riding a motor cycle without L-plates, insurance and a crash helmet.

Haslam, of Millhay Road, Langley Mill, Nottinghamshire, explained that as a track rider he was ranked as the world's number two but he had never bothered to take a motor cycle driving test.

Mr John Hargreaves, for prosecution, said that Haslam was stopped while riding a Suzuki 250 near his sister's home in Heanor, Derbyshire last September. Haslam's solicitor, Mr John Calladine said: "Mr Haslam is a professional motor cyclist of some skill and repute but he does not ride the motor cycles on the road and has never taken a motor cycle test."

He added that Haslam had been doing his sister's boy friend a favour by examining the Suzuki machine, which had a gearbox fault. He had gone only 25 yards in first gear and was about to return to the



Court lesson: Ron Haslam, the motor cycle champion after being fined yesterday.

house when he was stopped by the police. Haslam, who admitted the offences, also had his licence endorsed, had six penalty points awarded against him and was ordered to pay £7 costs. Afterwards he said: "It's not been my week. Last weekend I thought I was going to come second in the race at Monza but the bike

broke down on the last lap and now today I get fined for this."

"I never felt the need to ride a bike on the roads. I get all my excitement from racing. I have a car licence and drive to all the races so I'm glad I was not banned."

He added: "I was stopped riding a Suzuki by the policeman - the team I ride for is Honda."

The back-room workers

Activists prepare for battle

By David Walker Local Government Correspondent

Mrs Wendy Talley is the tolerant empress of the semi-detached house in Broomfield Road, Chelmsford, which the local Liberal Party recently took over for its headquarters.

Upstairs an old oil painting of William Ewart Gladstone looks down on her large-scale map of the town, while downstairs a trestle table is laden with the bric-a-brac of electioneering: posters, rosettes and those garish orange tee-shirts beloved of Young Liberals.

Mrs Talley, aged 36, whose husband is a Liberal councillor, is paid as a part-time constituency agent, but she works all the time. For more than two months her life has been completely given over to the elections.

The other day my telephone was broken. But there was no peace: people kept on knocking at the door," she said.

If the Liberal election machine wins control of the district council in Chelmsford on Thursday, much credit will be due to Mrs Talley. People like her exist in all the leading parties and in most areas.



LOCAL ELECTIONS

The total number of municipal activists is small, but they perform a vital function. Without them election addresses and manifestos would not come through the letter box, candidates would not get their nomination papers signed and the foot-soldiers would not be roused to go out canvassing on damp, dark evenings.

What makes an activist? Mr John Vaughan Jones, an official at the Labour Party's Welsh headquarters in Cardiff, said: "If you don't enjoy meeting people you shouldn't be in politics. For some people it is the sheer enjoyment of fighting elections."

The type of people who become active in local elections

has changed, he suggested: "Traditionally in the Welsh valleys the burden was carried by the trade union activists who tended to be the same people as those involved in the chapel, and the rugby clubs. Now, younger people are coming in, committed to socialism and seeing in the local authority a natural place to express that commitment."

Friendliness is a necessary ingredient, Mr Anthony Garrett, the deputy agent for the Conservative Party's south-east region, said. "People actively involved are often working out of people they know very well indeed: it's like working for a friend."

A Liberal candidate in Chelmsford said: "Sometimes you get tired and long for more time with the wife and family. Canvassing and political work during the election campaign takes up three hours a night, five nights a week, and the pace is tiring."

"But once in a while you knock on a door and you find somebody who has benefited from one of our campaigns, or our casework. Then it all becomes worthwhile."



THE NEW VOLVO 760 GLE. ITS SHAPE HAS MET WITH SOME RESISTANCE IN THE PRESS BUT VERY LITTLE ON THE ROAD.

In a world where it's often difficult to tell one car from another, no-one can mistake the new Volvo 760 GLE.

Its elegant profile is instantly recognisable.

Basically a wedge shape, it has a low bonnet, clearly sculptured edges and a steeply raked rear windscreen.

It is extremely aerodynamic giving a resistant co-efficient of just under 0.40.

(Equally important, it also gives three rear seat passengers the chance to sit up in comfort.)

A few journalists were surprised by the car's unusual profile but no-one has questioned its efficiency.

Although a roomy 5-seater, 6-cylinder saloon, the new Volvo is surprisingly economical.

The automatic model gives you 25 mpg (at 75 mph) 32.1 mpg (at 56 mph) and 17.9 mpg (Urban).

Of course, this economy is not solely due to the car's styling.

The 760 GLE is some 88lbs lighter than Volvo's previous 6-cylinder saloon.

While the car's new automatic transmission is equipped with an overdrive that reduces the engine's fuel consumption at speed, quite dramatically.

A DRIVER'S CAR.

Economy, however, is rarely the main reason for buying a car of this class.

The Volvo 760 GLE has to meet the needs of the driver as well as the needs of society.

It does it triumphantly.

"Ultimate handling is a delight with

total predictability and neutral balance in fast curves, gentle understeer in the slower ones." **AUTOCAR**

"The car showed excellent stability at all speeds." **MOTOR TREND**

The Volvo 760 GLE is very much a driver's car.

Top speed is 118 mph and 60 mph can be reached in just under 10 seconds, but it's the sheer driveability of the car that marks it out as special.

The long wheelbase and wide track give the car wonderful stability - even when buffeted by side winds, but the biggest contribution to the outstanding handling is made by the new rear suspension.

Volvo have introduced an entirely new constant track rear axle with a patented sub-frame.

This not only improves road holding but gives less vibration and lower noise levels.

Motor Trend summed it up this way:

"The new 760 saloons are capable of getting from Point A to Point B in a better than average hurry. With reassuring stability. Traditional Volvo comfort. And a level of luxury that is new for this company."

Inside, the car is indeed extremely comfortable.

The new front seats have been developed in co-operation with orthopaedic experts at the Sahlgrenska Hospital in Gothenburg.

Both are electrically heated. The seats automatically warm up at temperatures below 14°C.

You can choose leather or plush velour and the upholstery colour is repeated on the door panels and dashboard.

The dashboard itself is angled towards the driver so all the controls are within easy reach.

"Ergonomically the 760 GLE is excellent." **AUTOCAR**

It is also extremely well-equipped.

Full air conditioning, electric windows and door mirrors, central locking, metallic paint, tinted glass, power steering and alloy wheels are all standard.

You'll also find a host of extra little touches that make the 760 GLE a very satisfying car to live with.

For example, when you close the driver's door after getting in the car the courtesy light stays on for 15 seconds giving you time to put the key in the ignition.

There are no less than 10 different storage areas inside the car and there are reading lamps for both front and rear seats.

The boot, too, is especially accommodating.

And if the 760 GLE does well by your suitcases it does even better by your rear seat passengers.

The rear seat is unusually wide due to the absence of any wheel arches and the high roof line gives plenty of headroom.

THE TRADITIONAL VIRTUES.

Underlying all this enjoyment, of course, is Volvo's traditional concern with safety and reliability.

The new Volvo more than meets

every international safety regulation.

For example, the USA authorities demand that a car must meet stringent frontal collision standards.

The Volvo 760 GLE easily exceeds these standards, being able to absorb an impact some 36% greater than the regulations require.

When a car maker goes to that kind of trouble when it doesn't have to, you know you're in safe hands.

But if longevity of the occupants is a Volvo pre-occupation so is the longevity of the car.

Nobody makes longer lasting cars than Volvo.

The latest statistics to come from the Swedish Motor Inspection Company show that the Volvo has an average life expectancy of 193 years.

Longer than any other car in the survey.

The 760 GLE more than matches the quality of past Volvos, it improves on it.

To help prevent rust approximately one-third of the Volvo's bodywork is Zincrometal or zinc-coated sheet metal. About 18 square metres in all.

HOW MUCH? WHERE CAN I SEE IT?

The Volvo 760 GLE is at your nearest Volvo showroom now.

Prices start at £12,041, a figure that compares very favourably with other luxury cars on the market.

However, as with the car's looks, we're happy for you to judge the car's value for yourself.

If you'd like a colour brochure, ask your secretary to call us at the number below or send us your business card and we'll do the rest.

Better still, call in and see the car in the showroom.

You'll find, even standing still, it overcomes any resistance.

VOLVO

Reagan's Central America doctrine

President outlines four goals to provide long-term strategy

From Nicholas Ashford
Washington

President Reagan's address to a joint session of Congress on Wednesday night is likely to become known as "the Reagan doctrine on Central America".

In his speech Mr Reagan set out broad objectives which are likely to provide the basis of American policy towards the region for years to come. These are a commitment by the US to encourage the development of democracy in Central America; to help the countries of the region defend themselves against left-wing revolution and tyranny; to encourage economic development so as to eradicate poverty and other root causes for internal unrest; and to support dialogue and negotiation among and within the countries of the region.

In an attempt to alert American public opinion to the threat that unrest in Central America poses to the US, the President warned that "the national security of all the Americas is at stake in Central America. If we cannot defend ourselves there, we cannot expect to prevail elsewhere. Our credibility would collapse, our alliances would crumble, and the safety of our homeland would be put in jeopardy."

Although Mr Reagan's speech contained no new initiatives, it did include suggestions of compromise. He said the US would support any agreement reached by Central American countries for withdrawal of all foreign forces and appeared to leave the door open for diplomatic efforts that could involve some of the left-wing insurgents in El Salvador.



Senator Percy: 'Better chance of approval'



Senator Kasten: Bipartisan support

The President also announced - but did not name - the appointment of a special envoy to Central America. The envoy is expected to be Mr Richard Stone, a former Florida senator, although some congressmen have expressed reservations about Mr Stone's previous connections with the Government of Guatemala.

The immediate aim of the address was to gain congressional approval for the military and economic assistance programme to El Salvador and other countries in the region. This programme, amounting to \$600m for fiscal 1984, has been floundering around Capitol Hill for weeks because of congressional concern about the Administration's objectives - particularly its military aid for El Salvador - and the pervasive fear that the US could find itself embroiled in another Vietnam-style conflict.

President Reagan tried to allay these fears by pledging that no US combat troops would be

sent to the region and by using language which, while tough when referring to the left-wing Sandinista regime in Nicaragua, was relatively muted and unbellicose.

Whether he has succeeded in winning the bipartisan support for his policy which he repeatedly sought during his address remains unclear. In the official democratic response broadcast immediately after his speech, Senator Christopher Dodd described his plea for more military aid as a "formula for failure".

Instead, Senator Dodd urged increased economic aid to relieve "the factors which breed revolution". He said the US should use its power and influence to achieve an immediate end to hostilities in both El Salvador and Nicaragua and work for negotiated political settlements in the region.

Senator Edward Kennedy welcomed the decision to appoint a special presidential envoy, but feared that the President's overall policy was

"a prescription for a wider war".

Senator Charles Percy, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, felt, however, that the President had a better chance than before the speech of winning congressional approval for the \$110m in military aid to El Salvador.

Senator Robert Kasten, chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, predicted that "Mr Reagan would now be able to develop the bipartisan support he needs for his programme to be approved."

Several congressmen expressed concern at the President's failure to refer to the covert aid that the CIA is giving to anti-Sandinista insurgents fighting against the Nicaraguan Government. His remarks about Nicaragua have been interpreted as meaning that this clandestine assistance will continue.

The first test of congressional reaction to the President's speech will place almost immediately when the House Intelligence Committee meets to consider a proposal to sever covert military aid to Nicaraguan rebels. The proposal instead proposes overt aid to friendly nations to help stem the flow of weapons to guerrillas in El Salvador.

Senator Miguel D'Escoto, Nicaragua's Foreign Minister, yesterday branded President Reagan a liar and predicted that Congress would block his request for additional aid to fight left-wing forces in the region. Appearing on American television via satellite he declared: "We don't have any foreign troops at all."

Leading article, page 13



Night at the ballet: Princess Anne talking earlier Princess Anne, on the sixth day of a with Japan's Princess Chichibu before last Japanese tour with Captain Mark Phillips, night's performance in Tokyo by Britain's inaugurated Austin Rover Japan, the car Royal Ballet. On her left is Prince Hiro, the company's new marketing operation, at a son of Japan's Crown Prince Akihito. ceremony in Tokyo.

Armed street protest called in Nicaragua

Managua (Reuters) - Nicaragua's left-wing government has called for armed protest marches throughout the country in response to an appeal by President Reagan for more military aid for Central America's anti-leftist government.

Broadcasts by a Nicaraguan government representative said Mr Reagan's address to Congress had slandered Nicaragua.

The broadcasts demanded that the people take to the streets "carrying your rifles, machetes, clubs and any other weapon to show the ability of the Nicaraguan people to defend themselves against aggressions planned by Mr Reagan."

Nicaraguan leaders said Mr Reagan's call was really aimed at laying the groundwork for large-scale attacks on Nicaragua from neighbouring Honduras, the closest American ally in the region.

Honduras welcomed the Reagan speech, and the Government said it supported fully Mr Reagan's opposition to "totalitarian expansion" in the region, including El Salvador.

● CUNCUN: President Joao Figueiredo, of Brazil, visiting this Caribbean resort in Mexico for talks with President Miguel de la Madrid, rejected Mr Reagan's position that Nicaragua threatens US security, AP and Reuters report.

"If the United States thinks the situation in Nicaragua represents a risk for their security, that's their problem," he told reporters, "and if they decide to intervene in Nicaragua, they'll be doing that without the support of Brazil."

"The region cannot be considered only from the perspective of ideological confrontation or by resorting to solutions of force."

The President said the United States was partly to

blame for Nicaragua's swing towards the Soviet block. If Nicaragua had received economic aid from rich countries, especially the United States, then it would not be in the current situation.

● SAN SALVADOR: General Eusebio Vides Casanova, the Defence Minister, said the people and armed forces of El Salvador were grateful to President Reagan for his efforts to shore up democracy in Central America. Reuters reports.

He said Mr Reagan's call would "wake the consciousness of the American people to the threat of communism."

● MOSCOW: Tass accused Mr Reagan of smearing the Nicaraguan Government and of shifting blame for tension in Central America. Reuters and AFP reports.

"He alleged that the United States and the entire Western world faced a terrible danger as a result of the revolutionary development of the region," Tass said.

● LONDON: Mr Denis Healey, the Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, accused Mr Reagan of "acting like a recruiting sergeant for communism in the whole Caribbean area". The Press Association reports. He described the President's speech as lamentable.

Speaking on BBC radio's Today programme, Mr Healey said the President's speech "would make a very dangerous situation very much worse."

By raising the stakes, Mr Reagan was bringing America "a big step closer to direct American involvement as it was in Vietnam. In the end, if America really believes what President Reagan says, it would have to put its own troops in and that would be a total disaster."

Assurance to Congress of no combat troops

The following are extracts from President Reagan's address to Congress on Wednesday:

For several years now, under two Administrations, the United States has been increasing its defence of freedom in the Caribbean basin. Democracy is beginning to take root in El Salvador which, until a short time ago, knew only dictatorship. The new Government is now delivering on its promises of democracy, reforms, and free elections.

The people of El Salvador are earning their freedom and they deserve our moral and material support to protect it.

The Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua turned out to be just an exchange of one set of autocratic rulers for another, and the people still have no freedom, no democratic rights, and more poverty. Even worse than its predecessor, it is helping Cuba and the Soviets to destabilize our hemisphere.

But let us be clear as to the American attitude toward the Government of Nicaragua. We do not seek its overthrow. Our interest is to ensure that it does not infect its neighbours through the export of subversion and violence. Our purpose, in conformity with American and international law, is to prevent the flow of arms to El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Costa Rica.

Some people talk as though the United States were incapable of acting effectively in international affairs without risking war or damaging those we seek to help.

Are democracies required to remain passive while threats to their security and prosperity accumulate? Must we just accept the destabilization of an entire region from the Panama Canal to Mexico on our southern border?

Let me say to those who invoke the memory of Vietnam: there is no thought of sending American combat troops to Central America. They are not needed - indeed they have not been requested there.

I offer these assurances: The United States will support any agreement among Central American countries for the withdrawal - under fully verifiable and

reciprocal conditions - of all foreign military and security advisers and troops.

We want to help opposition groups join the political process in all countries and compete by ballots instead of bullets.

We will support any verifiable, reciprocal agreement among Central American countries on the renunciation of support for insurgencies on neighbours' territory.

To move us toward these goals more rapidly I am tonight announcing my intention to name a special envoy to Central America. He or she will report to me through the Secretary of State. The ambassador's responsibilities will be to lead US support to the efforts of regional governments to bring peace to this troubled area and to work closely with the Congress to ensure the fullest possible bipartisan coordination of our policies toward the region.

What I am asking for is prompt congressional approval for the full reprogramming of funds for key current economic and security programmes so that the people of Central America can hold the line against externally supported aggression.

In addition, I am asking for prompt action on the supplemental request in these same areas to carry us through the current fiscal year, and for early and favourable congressional action on my request for fiscal year 1984.

Finally, I am asking that the bipartisan consensus, which last year acted on the trade and tax provisions of the Caribbean Basin Initiative in the House, again take the lead to move this vital proposal to the floor to both chambers.

In summation, I say to you that tonight there can be no question: The national security of all the Americas is at stake in Central America. If we cannot defend ourselves there, we cannot expect to prevail elsewhere. Our credibility would collapse, our alliances would crumble, and the safety of our homeland would be put at jeopardy.

We have a vital interest, a moral duty, and a solemn responsibility.

Fatigue defeats farm ministers

Tiredness, technical detail, obstinacy and the threat of 3,000 angry French farmers between them put paid to attempts in Luxembourg throughout Wednesday night to agree on an EEC farm price package for the year ahead.

After 17 hours of discussion the 10 ministers just could not find the political and physical will to go on ploughing through remaining details.

At 9 am yesterday they gave up and adjourned the argument until May 16. Then they climbed wearily into their cars and drove off through barricades the Luxembourg police were already erecting to protect the area from the coachloads of French farmers known to be converging on Luxembourg.

The marathon session had come tantalizingly close to reaching agreement on the main argument over the levels of "green rates" which adjust farm prices by taking account of differences in currencies.

But despite a skilful manipulation of the rules being suggested by the West German presidency, which would have had the effect of closing the gap between prices for farmers in weak currency and strong currency countries, it proved in the end impossible to overcome Italian resistance to the idea.

Britain, too, lodged a protest that the scheme would have been unfair because it did not treat all farmers equally. Mr Peter Walker, the British Agriculture Minister, wanted assurances that the suggested green rate manipulation would not push the price of the settlement above the 4.2 per cent average, which has already been fixed.

M Michel Rocard, the French minister, blamed not only Italy but Denmark for the breakdown. This was because the Danish minister was resisting demands which would have given an extra rise to French pig farmers.

This was the first marathon session for M Rocard, and he emerged, somewhat disillusioned with proceedings.

The common agricultural policy was in danger of collapsing under the weight of its own contradictions, he said. It just could not compete against the commune system of the Eastern block on the one hand and the intensive American system on the other.

M Rocard, of all the ministers, under the most intensive domestic pressure to reach a settlement. Farmers all over France have begun a campaign of disruptive demonstrations in protest at the delay in fixing the price package, which ought in theory to be agreed by April 1 each year.

There was no doubt on the part of the Luxembourg authorities that the demonstrators on their way to the meeting were prepared to do more than mount a peaceful lobby. Officials, staff and journalists at the meeting were given special maps to help them find their way past the road blocks being erected round the Council meeting place and troops were being mobilized to mount guard.

Minutes on Wednesday as students clashed with the police outside.

Farmers continued their protests throughout France yesterday, blocking motorways and customs posts and seizing lorries carrying imported agricultural produce. Thousands of tons of butter, pork, ham, strawberries, vegetables and flowers were dumped on the roads and destroyed.

At Lannion, Brittany, police fired tear gas and water cannon as about a 100 farmers, attacked the police station early yesterday morning.

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Ecuador landslide buries 100

Quito (Reuters) - More than 100 people were feared killed when an avalanche of mud and rocks buried lorries and buses on a highway in southern Ecuador.

In a report from the scene of the disaster in Chimborazo province, 180 miles south of Quito, a government spokesman said it was perhaps the worst such catastrophe in Ecuador. President Osvaldo Hurtado said he would supervise rescue operations by police, troops, firemen and civil defence personnel.

The size of the tragedy hit the Government and all Ecuadorians overwhelmed with pain," he said.

The Interior Ministry reported earlier that 12 bodies had been recovered from the scene of the landslide, which blocked about 500 yards of the main highway between Quito and Cuenca, the country's third largest city.

Christmas tree used as bribe

Moscow (Reuters) - A Soviet airport official has been jailed for 12 years for helping to smuggle cultural treasures from the Soviet Union in return for bribes.

The trade union daily *Trud* said the official used flight staff of the state airline Aeroflot to smuggle abroad precious hand-woven carpets, silverware and other valuables in return for cash, cognac, chocolates and even a Christmas tree.

Delhi deadline

Delhi (Reuters) - The Indian Government gave Sikh religious authorities one week to hand over a murder suspect believed to be sheltering in the holiest Sikh shrine, the Golden Temple at Amritsar in Punjab state. A police deputy inspector-general was killed outside the temple entrance on Monday.

Boys in skirts

Fontana, California (AP) - When Fontana High School banned skirts, some 60 male students protested by coming to school in dresses and mini-skirts. A student spokesman said the ban was unfair because "the girls can be comfortable in mini-skirts when it's warm, but we can't."

'Ghandi' award

Rome (AP) - Sir Richard Attenborough, the director of *Ghandi*, won the "European David" prize here for promoting "the ideals of brotherhood and humanity." His film on the life of the Indian statesman also won three nominations for Italian academy awards in July.

Rugby 'crusade'

M Albert Ferrasse, president of the French Rugby Federation, who says he plans a trip to South Africa soon to seek a meeting with Mr P W Botha, the Prime Minister, to speak out against apartheid. He announced his "personal crusade" after meeting President Mitterrand whose objection stopped a planned French rugby tour.

Los Angeles (Reuters) - Karen Elkhund, a model, said here that she has dropped a \$3m "Pall-mony" action against the filmmaker, Nick Nolte. This has made one of the happiest women in the world," she said, adding that they had been reconciled.

Friends again

Vienna (Reuters) - Two men, have been executed in Czechoslovakia for murder, the Communist Party daily *Rude Pravo* reported. They were found guilty of killing the cashier of a Prague company during a robbery.

Famine relief

Geneva - Three plane-loads of dried whole-milk arrived in Ethiopia as part of emergency aid for children and mothers in the drought-stricken provinces of Gonder, Wallo and Tigrai, a spokesman for the World Food Programme said here.

£8,000 ache

Manila (AP) - A court ordered two surgeons to pay about £8,000 in damages for leaving a 5in pair of forceps in a patient's stomach for over two years. The man had complained of stomach ache.

Youth and age

Washington (AP) - President Reagan laughed off a comment by Mr Tip O'Neill, Speaker of the House of Representatives that the President was too old at 72 to seek another term. "It's just a youthful mistake on his part," he said. Mr O'Neill is 70.

France lifts clamp on videos

From Diana Geddes
Paris

France announced yesterday that it had lifted its sixth-month-old restrictions on the importation of video cassette recorders, more than 90 per cent of which come from Japan, but at the same time issued a warning that further measures would be taken against Japanese imports if France's foreign trade with Japan did not improve.

Last year France had a deficit with Japan of 12,000m francs (£1,000m), up from 7,000m francs in the previous year. The Government's decision last October to "centralize" customs clearance for video imports in a single, out-of-the-way customs post at Poitiers, 200 miles south-west of Paris, was intended as a symbolic warning to Japan and a measure to aid the French video industry.

Video cassette imports, which had been flooding in at a rate of nearly 3,000 a day, were reduced to a trickle. In lifting the restrictions, France has not set any quota on imports, but it is hoping that Japan will voluntarily limit them.

Mme Edith Cresson, Minister for Trade, said yesterday that the Government would not hesitate to take other measures of the same type "if the trade deficit between the two countries deteriorated."



Admirals brief the ambassador: Admirals Staveley (left) and McDonald with Signor Eric da Rin (centre).

Nato has 'only half the warships' it needs

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Nato's two leading naval commanders complained yesterday of being up to 50 per cent short of the warships they need in the Atlantic and English Channel.

A long-standing need for more frigates and destroyers has been sharpened by the preoccupation of some member countries with out-of-area operations like that around the Falklands according to Admiral Wesley McDonald, Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic.

But he and Admiral Sir William Staveley of the Royal Navy who is Nato's Com-

mander-in-Chief in the Eastern Atlantic and Channel, also pointed to "a terrible shortage" of mine warfare vessels, with only three coastal minesweepers available to patrol the US coast.

The two men briefed Nato representatives, including Ambassador Eric da Rin, the Italian deputy secretary-general of the alliance, at Admiral Staveley's underground command post at Northwood, Middlesex, which was also operational headquarters for last year's Falklands War.

Both Britain and America have been commissioning civil-

ian vessels like trawlers and pleasure craft to complement new high-technology mine counter-measures vessels now coming into service.

Both admirals are urging member countries to raise their force levels after analysing the requirements to be met in the North Atlantic.

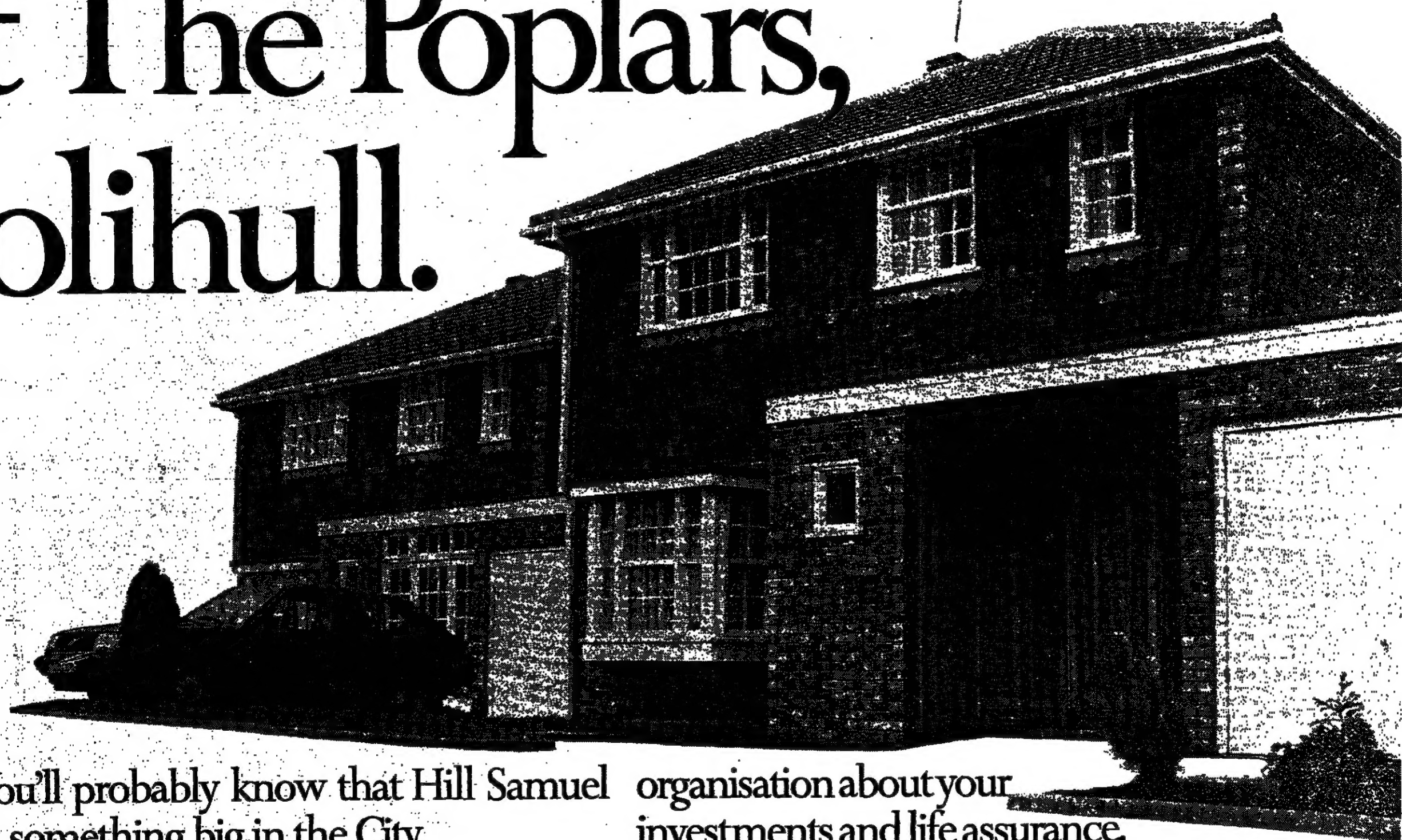
Admiral McDonald identified the submarine fleet as the "most dire threat" facing the alliance. Britain, he disclosed, had been preparing to take the Araphon, an American experimental container ship converted to carry anti-submarine

helicopters, to the South Atlantic last year had the Falklands fighting continued.

At a press conference held after their classified briefing of the representatives, he spoke of being short of about 60 escort vessels of one kind or another in the Atlantic.

America was trying to raise its own force level by building up a 600-ship navy, against strong competition for funds in Congress. But the recent fleet of more than 400 hulls had to be compared with the 975 in service in the late 1960s, he said.

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Spanish coup officers have prison terms upheld or heavily increased

From Our Own Correspondent Madrid

The Spanish Supreme Court yesterday upheld the maximum sentences of 30 years imprisonment on two senior Army officers for their role in the attempted coup of February, 1981, and raised the sentence of a third officer, General Alfonso Armada, from six to the maximum 30 years.

The authorities had appealed to the Supreme Court against sentences handed down last June by a military court martial on 33 people involved in the plot.

The Supreme Court increased the sentences in 21 of the 33 cases brought before it, only one of which concerned a civilian. It also quashed the acquittals of all eight parliamentary civil guard lieutenants who helped to storm Parliament, dismissing the military judges' findings of due obedience to superior orders as contrary to military regulations.

Señor Juan Garcia, the only civilian was found guilty of conspiring in a military rebellion and had his two-year sentence confirmed.

Five more senior officers, headed by General Luis Torres, had the court martial findings changed from conspiracy to active participation in military rebellion. General Torres was given 12 years instead of six, and Colonel Jose San Martín received 10 years instead of three.

Seven of the eight Civil Guard lieutenants received one year prison sentences. The



Above: Generals Armada (left) and del Bosch, 30 years each. Below: Colonel Tejero (left), 30 years, and General Torres Rojas, 12 years.



eight, Lieutenant Vicente Ramos, was given two years. The Supreme Court agreed with the prosecution argument that his manhandling in Parliament of the then deputy prime minister in charge of defence matters and an army general could not go unpunished.

So the seven civilian judges accepted the arguments of the prosecution that General Armada (at one time secretary to King Juan Carlos) was jointly responsible for the rebellion with Lieutenant-General Jaime Milans del Bosch, the former Valencia Captain-General and

Lieutenant-Colonel Antonio Tejero, who led the civil guards in storming Parliament, whose 30-year sentences were confirmed yesterday.

General Milans, aged 68 and head of a military family over generations with great prestige in extreme right-wing military and civilian circles, General Armada, aged 63, and Colonel Tejero will be dismissed the service. Like all those found guilty, they will do their prison terms in military establishments.

The trial itself could not under the law be held before the civilian courts in the initial stages, and the officers cannot be sent to civilian jails because the code of military justice has not yet been reformed by Parliament.

The findings, coming just over two years and two months after Parliament and the full Cabinet were held hostage for 18 hours, were pronounced by Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, as "extraordinarily clear and absolutely respectable". He said the court's message was that no one could rebel against the constitutional order with impunity.

Certainly the findings underlined the leniency of the military tribunal last June and amply justified the appeal filed immediately afterwards by the Centre Democrat Government of the day.

However, they were described as "very hard" by Lieutenant-General Nannal Esquivias, president of the Supreme Council of Military

Justice, the body which formed last year's court martial.

Though promising to accept the findings, General Esquivias said the civilian court appeared to have applied maximum sentences "where we awarded the minimum ones". The military council is to review the findings next week.

The Supreme Court left open an appeal to the Government to commute the maximum sentences, as the council of military justice recommended last year.

Its 240-page finding, which was broadcast live by Spanish radio, rejected the procedural complaints of the defence. The plotters' use of terrorism and the doctrine of acting out of necessity, could not justify attacking Parliament or the constitutional set-up, the judges said.

The Supreme Court gave a five-day period to those found guilty to file clemency petitions to the Government. No decision has yet been taken by the military authorities where to send those found guilty, but some castles in the military's charge have been recently refurbished.

The Civil Guard officers, however, have already served their prison terms awaiting trial.

Defence counsel said that they are to appeal to Spain's constitutional court which, while not an appeal court against yesterday's findings, does have jurisdiction if a citizen's fundamental rights are deemed infringed.



Twin's gift of a baby

Magali Cruzel (left), aged 31, smiling at her twin sister, Christine, in Montpellier last November, as they awaited the birth of Magali's child. On Wednesday in Nimes, Magali, who is sterile, had a son produced by Christine, who had been artificially inseminated by Magali's husband, Diana Geddes writes.

Magali, who suffered many of the pains and cravings of her sister during the pregnancy, was present throughout the birth of Stephanie. She said she had no problems feeling that he was her own child.

As the twins were produced from a single egg and have identical genes, Stephanie will have the same genetic make-up as if he had been produced by Magali.

Insults and punches traded at Botha rally

From Michael Hornsby Johannesburg

Punches and insults were traded at a rally addressed by Mr P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, in Pretoria on Wednesday night, reflecting the increasing bitterness of the political campaigning in the run-up to four crucial by-elections in the Transvaal on May 10.

Tension at the rally - attended by about 1,500 people - mounted as Mr Botha was repeatedly heckled by members of the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB), or Afrikaner Resistance Movement, an ultra-racist and undisciplined fascist organisation with a swastika-like emblem and black shirt youth wings.

Supporters of Mr Botha's ruling National Party pulled one heckler roughly to the ground as he tried to question the Prime Minister.

Mr Botha called one of his tormentors and orang-utan and referred to others as "white bastards". He said he would ask Mr Louis le Grange, Minister of Law and Order, to conduct an immediate investigation into the AWB, adding: "We cannot allow these people to spread disorder".

The meeting was held in the well-to-do Waterkloof suburb of Pretoria, where the main challenge to the Government on May 10 will come from the liberal and staunchly anti-apartheid Progressive Federal Party.

The four by-elections, three of them to parliamentary seats and one to a Provincial Council seat, are seen as a crucial test of right-wing opposition to the Government's modest constitutional reforms, which would give a strictly qualified franchise to the mixed-blood Coloured and Indian minorities.

Mr Botha has announced that the Draft Constitution Amendment Bill will be presented to Parliament early next week. It was originally supposed to have been presented before the Easter Recess, and the delay led to charges that the Government was afraid to disclose details before the by-elections.

After the meeting Mr Botha called on the breakaway Conservative Party to tell South Africa that it had severed all links with the AWB.

The AWB, founded in the early 1970s, has links with the pro-Nazi organization which opposed South Africa's entry into the Second World War, and to which Mr Botha himself belonged for a time.

Election background, page 12

Greece fails to check rising tide of strikes

From Mario Modiano Athens

The Greek Government's resourceful efforts to check the rising tide of Labour unrest have apparently yielded no results, despite the invocation of external threats to the nation, methodical attempts to divide the strikers, and even a veiled warning that they would be mobilized and forced back to work.

The crews of 1,700 Athens public buses are staging wildcat strikes during peak traffic hours, demanding higher pay. They have been joined by the capital's 15,000 taxi drivers, who are unhappy about taxes. Tourist coaches were brought in to relieve the ensuing chaos, but confusion grew as the state television broadcast misleading reports that the bus strike was over.

Private school teachers have been on strike for three weeks pressing for greater job protection, while hospital doctors began a two-day stoppage yesterday because the Government is holding up a new health Bill which grants them higher salaries.

The Government has reacted against this unrest with a sledgehammer, probably because these are sensitive areas where strikes provoke anti-government feelings. The inner Cabinet met and decided to mobilize bus crews, after first giving them a chance to recant.

The ruling Pasok party's executive under Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Prime Minister, put out a stern statement: "Just as the government of change is fighting the battle for national independence and the protection of Hellenism, one is astounded by this sudden eruption of strikes".

A few hours later, as the Government released telegrams from trade unions promising to stage no strikes while national independence was at stake, a big diplomatic row erupted with the United States about the future of the American bases in Greece and American military aid to Greece and Turkey.

More and more Greeks now suspect that the US-Greek crisis was artificial, the more so since the Government openly encouraged a huge anti-American rally in central Athens last night organized by the government-controlled General Confederation of Greek Workers.

At the root of the current uneasiness is the wage freeze for 1983 which the Government seems determined to enforce.

Soares weighs chances of forming coalition

From Susan MacDonald, Lisbon

President Eanes of Portugal yesterday had his first meeting with Dr Mario Soares, the Socialist Party leader, after his qualified victory in Monday's general election.

Dr Soares said afterwards that he had expressed concern over the country's economic situation and the need for a national consensus to resolve the crisis.

As the election results did not give the Socialist Party an overall majority and Dr Soares has stated that he will not form a minority government, he has taken a first step of sending out about 60,000 circulars asking his party members whether they prefer a coalition with the right-wing Christian Democrats, the centre Social Democrats or the Moscow-orientated Communist Party.

Answers must arrive at party headquarters by next Thursday

and only after a Socialist political council meeting on the following Saturday will coalition negotiations begin.

However, the Socialists have already turned down a Communist Party offer to hold talks on forming a left-wing coalition saying that it offers surprises them after the anti-Socialist campaign mounted by the Communists before the election.

Since 1976, Dr Soares has consistently spoken out against having the Communists in the government.

The most obvious coalition partners would be the Social Democrats, but internal squabbling makes it unclear whether they will agree to help.

Dr Soares would also like the Bank of Portugal to outline the state of the economy and plans to hold talks with unions and management in the hope of agreeing future strategy.

Sakharov may take Vienna job

Moscow (Reuters) - Dr Andrei Sakharov, the dissident Soviet nuclear physicist, may have changed his mind about not emigrating to the West and may take up a university post offered to him in Vienna, diplomatic sources in Moscow said yesterday.

They said that the attitude of the Soviet authorities was not yet known but there had been indications in the past that he would be granted an exit visa if he asked of one.

The sources were commenting on a report at Vienna University had offered the Nobel Prize laureate a visiting professorship.

Professor Peter Weinzierl, the head of the university's Institute for Experimental Physics, was quoted as saying that he believed there was a great possibility that the Soviet authorities would allow Mr Sakharov to leave.

One diplomat here said: "In the past there never appeared to be any problems about visas. It was simply that Sakharov did not want to go. There is strong evidence he may have changed his mind".

Dr Sakharov was sent into internal exile in the city of Gorky in January, 1980.

Since then his wife, Mrs Yelena Bonner, has travelled regularly to Moscow and reported that her husband was finding it difficult to continue his work as a physicist because he was cut off from information

Mafia stops Mass by archbishop

From Peter Nichols Rome

Cardinal Pappalardo, Archbishop of Palermo, was prevented by the Mafia from saying Mass in the city's prison, it was learnt in Rome yesterday.

The Cardinal is an outspoken opponent of the Mafia and is credited with much of the responsibility for the Pope's strong condemnation during the Papal visit to Sicily last autumn.

On Saturday the Cardinal went to say Mass at Ucciardone prison, notoriously controlled by members of the Mafia held there. Even ministerial officials admit that this is the reason why it is one of the quietest of Italy's prisons, even though it is in a city suffering from increasing crime.

The Mafia's word within the prison is law, even if the law itself has difficulty being heard.

On Saturday all the prisoners refused to go to Mass, no doubt under pressure from the Mafia elements. So the Cardinal had to leave, very sorrowfully, according to close associates.

Miners trapped

Prague (AP) - Eleven miners were trapped underground in a cave-in at a coal mine in northern Moravia near the Polish border. Rescue work began at once.

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Muldoon uses royal tour for own ends

From James Oram, Auckland

Mr Robert Muldoon, the New Zealand Prime Minister, was yesterday again using the royal tour as an exercise in gathering support for his ailing National Party.

He has been doing it since the Prince and Princess of Wales arrived in New Zealand nearly two weeks ago. Muldoon's actions have caused annoyance and embarrassment to royal officials.

Day after day the squat figure of Mr Muldoon had been in the wake of the Prince and Princess, being seen prominently at functions no other national leader would dream of attending.

Mr Muldoon prefers royal walkabouts. He shakes hands with the crowd waiting to see the royal couple, cracks jokes in the manner of a local MP visiting a village fête.

In Christchurch, yesterday, icy rain did not deter the Prime Minister from continuing with what many observers have called blatant politicizing. Nor did Mr Muldoon mind using the occasion to give a couple of radio interviews.

is an embarrassment. "He turns up everywhere like a bad penny", one official said. "It is really incredible. In no other country do you get this. A prime minister is only seen on state occasions and certainly not on walkabouts. They are for the royal visitors and the public - not for politicians."

The reason for Mr Muldoon's search for every possible vote is the slipping popularity of his government and the fact that next year is election year. In a public opinion poll released yesterday Mr Muldoon's National Party received 31.3 per cent support.

The Labour Party, under its new leader, Mr David Lange, was close about its support, which stood at 52.4 per cent. The small Social Credit Party received 8.3 per cent.

Mr Muldoon's personal popularity has slipped from 38.9 per cent in a February poll to 34.8 per cent yesterday. Mr Lange scored 50.3 per cent.

CHRISTCHURCH: Yesterday the Prince and Princess of Wales walked about in the rain yet again in the heart of Christchurch, before going on to the Air Force base at Wigram to watch a flying display. Grania Forbes of the Press Association reports. Prince Charles wore his uniform of Air Commodore in Chief of the New Zealand Air Force.

Clash of ideologies

Warsaw's liberals take on hardliners

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

A party meeting, writes the Soviet satirist Vladimir Voinovich, is an arrangement whereby a large number of people gather together, some to say what they really do not think, some not to say what they really do.

And such, we can safely predict, will be the course of affairs at the long-awaited plenary session of Poland's Communist Party Central Committee, due to begin in the next few weeks.

The real battle is being fought now, in the factories and the press, with a remarkable venom. The subject of the session is ideology: that is, the continued relevance of Marxism-Leninism in the problems facing Poland. Not, one might think, a subject that need detain anybody for very long.

It is possible, indeed customary, to reduce the protagonists in this conflict to those Marxists committed to more or less radical economic reform accompanied by much milder political adjustments (liberals), and those dogmatic Marxists whose suspicion of change overrides even their disapproval of the status quo (hardliners).

The reason that this conflict has more than theatrical quality is the choice of weapons, with the hardliners building up support by preying on the fears of workers who have seen their standard of living collapse in the past year.

The Government, with the support of the liberals, is trying to introduce an economic reform which decentralizes some parts of the economy, giving management more initiative and workers more say in production. But at the same time it is trying to pull the country out of crisis.

These are two separate processes, but in the imagination of many workers they have fused into one. Reform is being identified with unrewarded sacrifice.

The dogmatic Marxists have scented the discontent, voiced loudly enough at a recent meeting between 2,000 workers and General Jaruzelski, and are representing themselves as the true standard-bearers of the working class. This may be sincerely meant but it is, say the liberals, undermining popular confidence in reform in the very place it counts - the factory.

The liberals have hit back from three different directions. Colonel Stanislaw Kwiatkowski, who heads the Government's new public opinion research centre, wrote recently that the

opposition in Poland - that is, the Solidarity underground - was largely intellectual and should be dealt with accordingly. The Government should be trying to win the support of the populace and thus isolate the intellectuals, rather than hit them over the head, a policy much favoured by the hardliners, or the "ideological gendarmes", as he calls them.

US broadcasts 'slandrous'

Warsaw (NYT, AFP) - The Polish Government told the US yesterday that American radio broadcasts to Poland were aggressive and slanderous. A formal protest, made public by the PAP news agency, said Polish-language broadcasts by the Voice of America and by Radio Free Europe were intended to destabilize the situation in Poland.

The Polish Foreign Ministry has also closed the American library in Warsaw for showing films and television programmes defaming the Polish Government.

The second line comes from Mr Ludwik Krasnicki, an editor of the ideological journal *Nowe Drogi*. Writing in the weekly *Polityka*, he makes clear that he considers the hardliners' and their "populist demagoguery" as more of a threat to the policies of General Jaruzelski than those who quietly sympathize with Solidarity.

The third, more scholarly, line of attack comes from Mr Wladyslaw Markiewicz, a noted professor of sociology, who in a recent interview indicated that the sectional loyalty of the hardliners, above all to the party bureaucrats most threatened by reform, had blinded them to the reality that Socialism can be creatively reformed.

It remains to be seen whether this unusually sharp in-fighting will lead to adjustments.

Most liberals argue that General Jaruzelski is firmly in the saddle and can ride out a bout of criticism, although they admit that the hardliners will never be stamped out.

The hardliners' argue, in the jargon of child psychology, that they are misunderstood: they are not pushing to take over power, or sabotage policies. They simply believe that more rather than less Socialism is what will solve Poland's internal problems.

Swedes launch protest over Baltic crackdown

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

Sweden yesterday launched a fresh protest against the Soviet Union, this time over a crackdown by the authorities in the Baltic republics of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia.

In a toughly-worded statement sent to all foreign journalists in Stockholm, the Foreign Minister, Mr Lennart Bodstrom, referred to a recent wave of arrests in the Baltic states and said Sweden was prepared to raise the matter before the United Nations Commission for Human Rights. Coming immediately after the recall of the Swedish Ambassador from Moscow and the public denouncement of Soviet submarine incursions into Swedish waters, the statement has done nothing to improve deteriorating Swedish-Soviet relations.

Sweden also announced yesterday that it would not be attending the May Day parade in Moscow's Red Square. There was jubilation among MPs over the cancellation of a visit to Moscow by Danish Social Democrats in protest at Soviet submarine violations.

These developments seem to be part of a drive by Mr Olof Palme's Social Democratic Government to counter allegations in Western diplomatic circles that Sweden is "soft" on communist abuse of power and that the country's traditional policy of armed neutrality leans too far east.

Mr Bodstrom said several reports have been received recently which point to a general intensification of controls in the Baltic states.

Leading article, page 13



Mini-hijack fails: Gene Kartz, of White Plains, New York, is searched on the ground by a policeman at Albany airport after trying to hijack the diminutive commuter aircraft to Portland, Maine.

Police called in as 29th heart drug baby dies

From John Best, Ottawa

Toronto police are investigating the death of a baby whose body has been found to contain excessive levels of the powerful heart drug Digoxin.

The death on Saturday of seven-month-old Gary Murphy, of Kitchener, Ontario, is the latest of 29 infant deaths at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children linked to possible overdoses of the drug.

Only the day before Mr Roy McMurtry, the Ontario Attorney-General, announced a public inquiry into the deaths of the other 28 babies, which occurred between July, 1980, and March, 1981. All the deaths have occurred in the hospital's cardiac ward.

At least seven are believed to have been caused by deliberate overdoses of Digoxin.

Nurse Susan Nelles, was discharged on four charges of first-degree murder after a preliminary hearing last May. The judge ruled that there was insufficient evidence to send the case to trial.

But he said there was no doubt that at least some of the infants had been murdered. Miss Nelles has been on paid

leave from the hospital since being discharged.

The most recent deaths occurred despite a new drug distribution system at the hospital which allows only single doses of drugs such as Digoxin to be administered.

A coroner decided to call in the police after a post-mortem examination revealed high levels of Digoxin

15,000 fight fires ravaging Japan

Tokyo (Reuters) - nearly 15,000 firemen, troops and police using helicopters yesterday fought fierce fires in northern Japan which have destroyed about 60 houses and made 240 people homeless.

The fires, which broke out in dry weather and were fanned by high winds on Wednesday, were yesterday still burning in five areas of northern Honshu, Japan's main island.

Six people were injured and 240 made homeless, mainly in the Pacific coast city of Kuji in Iwate prefecture, and in districts near Sendai city in Miyagi prefecture.

On Wednesday night, about 1,000 people were evacuated from Kuji and a town nearby when the wind drove the flames close to their homes.

About two dozen fires broke out in mountainous northern Honshu on Wednesday. One began as a controlled burning-off operation by woodmen, but sudden high winds turned it into a blaze.

YOKOHAMA: Seaborne traffic in Yokohama port, one of the world's busiest, was halted for more than two hours yesterday after a tanker collision caused highly inflammable naphtha to leak into the water, Reuters reports.

Traffic in Yokohama port resumed after most of the leaked naphtha had vaporized, it said. The chemical tanker was carrying 1,276 kilolitres of naphtha.

Police save Valencia leader from lynch mob

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

Hundreds of policemen took part in the rescue of the battered and bruised Señor Joan Lema, the Chief Minister of the Valencia Region's home-rule government, from a lynch-minded mob that surrounded a cinema where the Socialist politician was to have delivered a campaign speech.

According to reports reaching here yesterday, Señor Lema was insulted on Wednesday night by a crowd estimated by the police at between 6,000 and 7,000, outside the cinema in the steel town of Sagunto, near Valencia. It is here that the Government plans to close down part of the money-losing, state-owned Altos Hornos del Mediterraneo mill.

The incident was the most serious so far since the campaign began for nationwide municipal elections and some regional elections to be held on Sunday week.

As the crowd moved in and attacked Señor Lema, his bodyguards and the policemen on duty surrounded him and moved into the relative safety of the cinema.

Two shots were reported to have been fired in the scuffle but no one was hurt.

Members of the Socialist Youth Movement blamed the violence on the Communist Workers' Commissions, the Communist Party and the Conservative Popular Alliance.

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Snooker changed when it was plucked from the clubs and reset on the living-room television. Now it faces new pressures. As the world championship reaches a climax, fortunes are at stake

Lords of the baize battlefield

By Neil Lyndon

The manager can play the game. "Not like these guys, I mean, I'm not very good. Except when I play for money. Then I'm very hard to beat. For bets, you know, in billiard halls. I love that."

"Is the betting serious?"

"Depends if you call three or four thousand serious."

"Don't you?"

"No."

The manager is very prosperous. In drizzly Sheffield, his fair face is ruddy with costly tan. His suit is richly heavy and hangs smooth to the millimetre. His silk tie, too new to make a tight knot, is a thirty-note touch. He recently sold his business. "I got greedy, I couldn't resist." The buyers paid him millions. He owned 16 snooker halls in Romford and the eastern outskirts of London. He was in it for ten years, but "it's a very physical business, the halls." Now Barry Hearn is managing the affairs of Steve Davis, Tony Meo and Terry Griffiths because "it's fun", he says, because "we have a fabulous time" and because "they're going to gross a million quid this year. That's fabulous, isn't it?"

As the comet snooker accelerates into a measureless stratosphere of riches, many of its desperate hangers-on are unhappy about the speeding changes they witness, and they pine for the vanished innocence in which they were more comfortable. Middle-aged men in shabby suits could often be overheard in Sheffield last week, backstage at the Crucible, condoling with each other and saying, "All the pleasure's gone, hasn't it? It's all so serious now. There's too much money involved." It is a familiar lament, which also rises from the sad amateurs who can no longer control, with unquestioned authority, the purse-strings of golf, tennis, cricket and athletics.

Barry Hearn is sitting very comfortably on the comet, as much as a pilot as a passenger, personifying snooker's new order. Managing Steve Davis's earnings, he has recently bought land in Scotland and buildings in Bond Street. "You're talking about major investments there. I think it's pathetic when a top sportsman says it's the height of his ambition to own a pub." Much of the income of Hearn's players derives from special appearances and commercial endorsements: clothing and "male perfumes" are about to appear, bearing their names. "We don't do the clubs

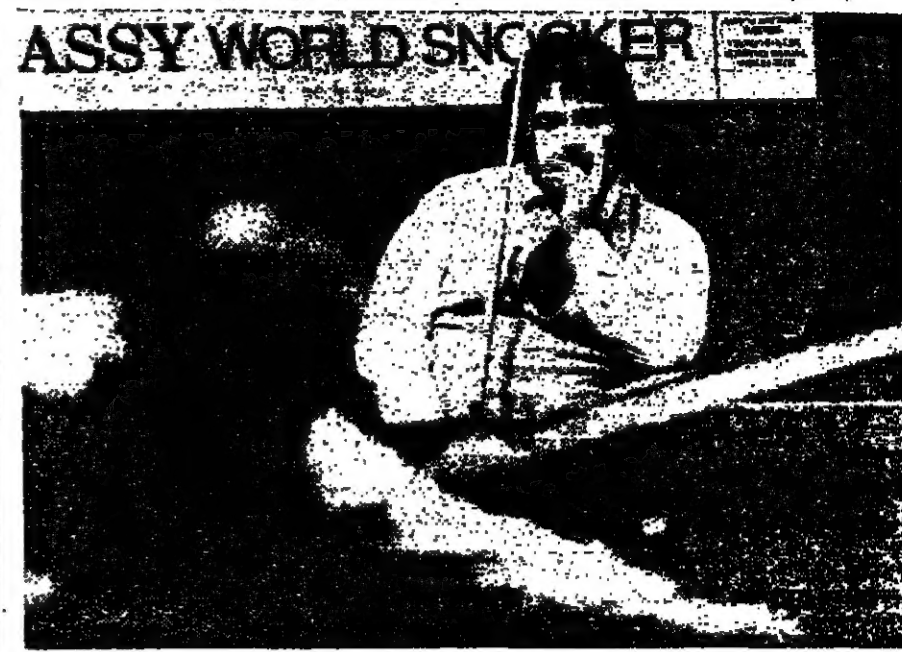
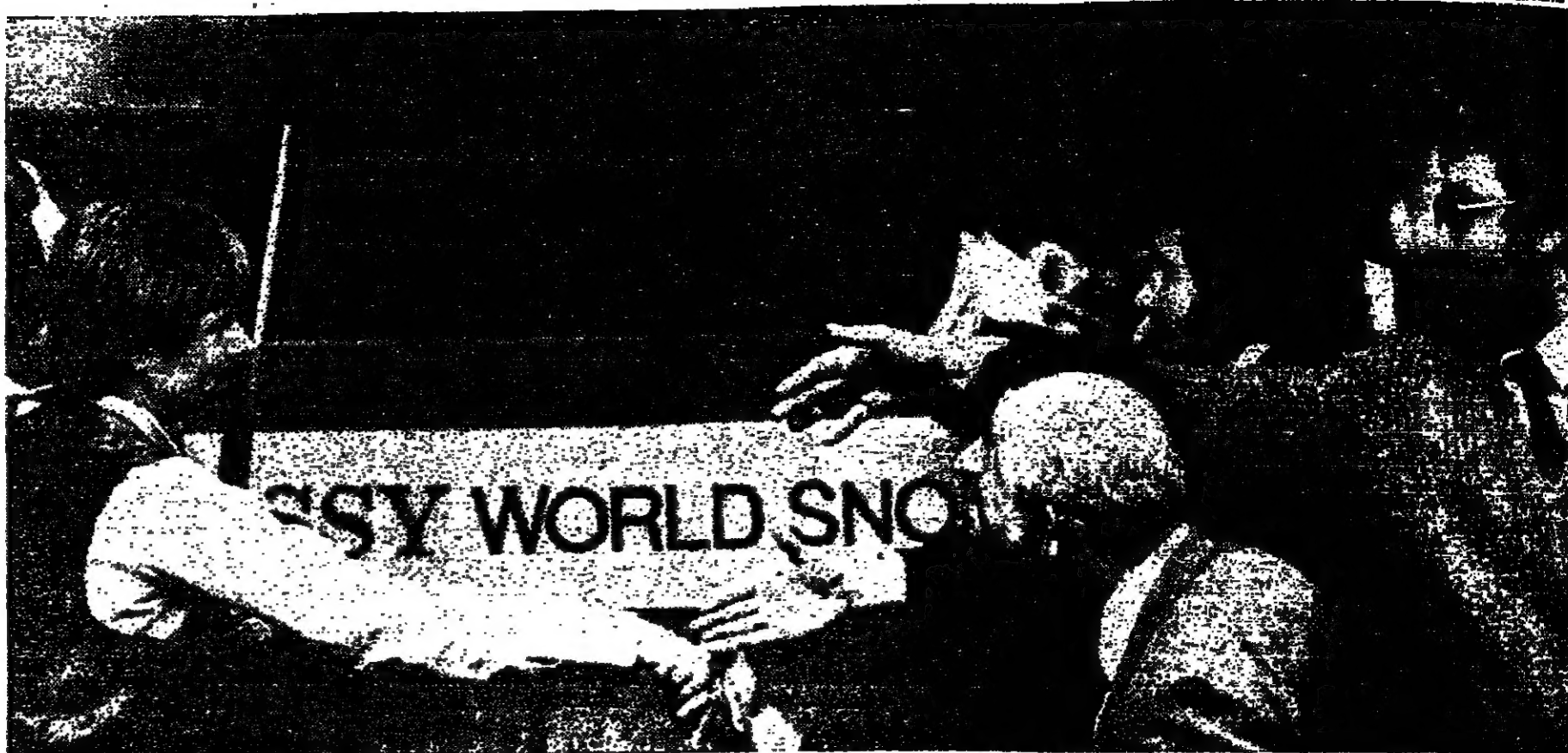
much any more. They can't afford us. The game's had about as much exposure in this country as it can take. We're interested in developments overseas now. We went to Bangkok with Steve Davis and they went mad there. Mad. There was 40 foot high posters of Davis all over Bangkok. It was like being in Romford High Street."

The manager is enjoying himself no end. "Always have. I love it. I know it sounds like *All Our Yesterdays*, but it was only a few years ago that we were going up and down the motorway for 35 quid for Steve Davis to play in clubs. I had to bet. It was the only way we could cover our expenses. Now he's going to be a millionaire many times over." Hearn thinks that the growth of snooker in this country will continue. "Women," he says. "Women. They're

The sponsor is contented; the old hand is less happy

only just coming into it. There's another 50 per cent of the market to go."

The sponsor is contented, too. Don Whiting, sponsored events executive of Imperial Tobacco, is confident that a more than adequate return is accruing to Embassy cigarettes for its outlay on the snooker world championship. This year, Embassy are putting up £135,000 in prize money and a further unspecified amount for the organisation of the tournament (some part of which will be accounted for by a press room lavishly supplied with free food and drink and telephones, dished out by handsome women all dressed in cigarette packet colours). Whiting hectorically denies that Embassy's cause is helped by the players' furious smoking. "Red herring," he says. "We also sponsor events like rugby league and opera where the participants can't be seen smoking." Red herring.



The faces of fate: above, Alex Higgins, the people's champion, acknowledges their adoration; below left, Barry Hearn (left) with his defeated protégé Tony Meo (centre); below right, Bill Werbeniuk resigns himself to the force of the hurricane

The sponsor is delighted that the growing wealth of the game is attracting many new players, "expanding the pool of professionals". The old hand is less happy. Ray Reardon says: "People are coming into the game solely for the money today. They win a game at Pontin's and they want to turn professional. Where's the love of the game?"

Reardon, now 50, has been a professional for 30 years. "There was no money in it then. It was all in the clubs. But you had your social life and you looked after your opponent. I loved it. I still do. I'll still do the clubs. I'm negotiable."

The old hand says that one aspect of snooker has not changed. "Snooker players are a breed apart. They're not completely themselves when they're not playing. See, when I get it right and I'm in charge of myself, then I'm unbeatable and I'm complete. Sometimes I go out there and I don't know what I'm doing or who I am. But I'm a Jekyll and Hyde and I can't control it; never have been able to. I wish I could be like Steve Davis. I'd be unstoppable, incomparable, if I was like him."

Two of the men apart are at the table, a fat man and a thin man. Bill Werbeniuk flops on to the table to make a shot and struggles to rise like a bull seal stranded on a rock. Alex Higgins is a thin spring wire to highest tension. He starts and quivers at any noise in the auditorium. Knots and ganglia of nerves tremble in his face as he sits between breaks, far gone in wild dialogue between the sides of himself.

Both the fat man and the thin man are very angry with the press. After one of their quarter-final sessions, Higgins hurries through the backstage area aiming an obscenity at a reporter and

withdrawing to his dressing room. Werbeniuk has a stand-up row in the corridor with reporters from popular papers to whom he will not speak, he says, unless they give him a letter undertaking to print what he says, rather than what they invent. He will talk to *The Times*.

Werbeniuk says that "this game of snooker that I'm participating in and which I love" is being "called down" by the popular papers and his pleasure is being spoiled. If he can't continue to enjoy the game, he says, he will leave it. "I've already turned down two opportunities to get extremely rich through business outside snooker and I can get others." The game, he says, is suffering from its growth and from greed. "Some of the players haven't realised that there's very little difference, after tax, between earning £200,000 and £400,000 and they're rushing up and down the country like yo-yos doing exhibitions and appearances when they should be practising." As he is speaking, the door opens and one of the spurned reporters reappears to plead: "Forget about the mood merchants, Bill. Talk to the regular lads. You'll be sorry if you don't." Werbeniuk looks fierce. "I don't want to talk about it."

A white Rolls Royce chauffeured by a boy in liveried grey awaits Werbeniuk at the stage-door. He stands by Blithe Spirit to pose for photographs, an Arturke grandee in his splendour, with children grinning into the camera behind and a mad old man in a blue woolly hat making cueing gestures beside him.

In the press room, the unblinkingly confident Steve Davis is giving literature lessons: "If you can keep your head while all about you is crumbling - that's a classic from a book." The gentlemen of letters look

uneasy. "I think that's a misinterpretation, Steve," says one. "Well, let's hope I can go on misinterpreting through the next two rounds."

Absent from all public discussion is the snooker-hall scruff, the player himself. Davis and Werbeniuk may become nabobs of property and finance but Higgins will remain the urchin forever unreformed. By no means can he be anything but himself, neither more nor less than a snooker-player. His attempts to dignify himself in spats and silks to match the rich sartorial exactness of young contenders

Higgins will remain the urchin, forever unreformed

like Tony Meo and Tony Knowles will always be thwarted by a body like a bag of sticks and an intensity of mental activity which mocks studied vanities of dress.

Like Bobby Fischer, Higgins is so engrossed in the mental exertions of his play that he can stand no interruption to the urgent chatter of his thoughts, so referees and reporters and noisy spectators are all intolerable intrusions to him. The table becomes more than a puzzle of points as he glares and frets upon it: the pattern of coloured balls turns into an analogue

of his own mind and in playing snooker he is completely playing himself. He is the most cerebral of all players, indifferent to the remorseless tortures of drink and nicotine with which he batters his body.

Who was the television producer or director who saw, more than a decade ago, that snooker was perfectly designed for the aesthetics and the economics of the medium? Three studio cameras cut round the table with a limitless variety of shots; there are only two characters and a referee to pay; and a tight, intimate drama of competition is the focus. Pretty, too, with all those colours. He deserves a royalty from snooker. From *Pot Black* has grown a sporting industry which is the envy even of the mighty money-makers of tennis and golf and which perfectly embodies the presiding principle which applies equally to motor-racing and boxing and tennis: the television audience is all; the suckers who go to sit and watch are merely fodder for the cameras. Dummies and taped crowd noises would do as well.

Snooker is not a sport for a large crowd of spectators and never was it only works for a gathering of intimates, grouped closely around the table, squinting at the angles over the players' shoulders and making side bets on every play. The intimates gathered around the tables of the World Professional Snooker Championship are the millions of members of the television audience, for theirs is the magnified and close up view that every punter covets. The seated audience is an attendant cast of extras, waiting upon the rising and falling of princes who cue for matchless prizes. A sennet, loud noises off, enter two lords, left and right; they play for the championship of the world.

Next week in Spectrum

Monday: How Gorky Park was transplanted to Scandinavia

Tuesday and Wednesday: The heroin epidemic. Addiction figures are rising throughout Britain, thanks to cut-price imports from the Golden Crescent.

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ACROSS	DOWN
1 Hairy (7)	1 Metal fastening (4)
2 Concur (5)	2 Willing (5)
3 Farmers' society (11,1)	3 Abnormality (13)
4 Scrutinizer (7)	4 Enlist (5)
5 Measure of length (5)	5 Selling to bidders (13)
6 Chiswick island (6)	6 Italian stream (7)
7 Meat chop (4,3)	7 Given the right (8)
8 Distinction (13)	8 Avoidance (8)
9 Shaved (7)	9 Slow learner (5)
10 Extremities (4)	10 Malay knife (4)
11 Colourless (5)	
12 Slimmer (7)	
13 Stamped envelope (1,1,1)	
14 Temporarily (5)	
15 Repents (7)	

SOLUTION TO No 48
ACROSS: 1 Crack 5 Rictus 8 IRA 9 Mosaic 10 Dismal 11 Dyak
12 Barracks 13 Astory 15 Parade 17 Macaroni 20 Pump 22 Adroit 23 Bustle
24 Del 25 Dynamo 26 Emeric
DOWN: 2 Rooney 3 Chalkier 4 Siskay 5 Radar 6 Costa 7 Unstaid
14 Stand by 15 Filable 16 Riposte 18 Aroma 19 Outdo 21 Multi
(Solution to No 48 on Monday)
Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise English

Dazzling...so much fun you won't realize you're learning something.



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Where Ruskin complained of the view of Browning

NO MORE OVER... Miles Kingston

Before I leave the subject of Venice, I must warn intending visitors that there are two kinds of Brown to be found all over that great but sinking city: package tourists and people writing books about the place. I would guess that the latter is the bigger group. Even in one week I met authors doing research for the following titles:

The Washing Lines of Venice.
The Casa di Venice.
Vanished Islands of Venice.
Places Where Ruskin Stayed.
Places Where Byron Didn't Stay.

Until these are written, most tourists make do with copies of either James Morris's *Venice* or J. G. Links's *Venice for Pleasure*, both excellent. You can tell they are excellent from the quotes on the covers. Morris's book is "the best modern book about a city I have read" (Geoffrey Grigson). Links's is "one of the most delightful and original guides ever written about the city - any city, for that matter", according to no less a man than James Morris. Not to be outdone, Bernard Levin calls it "not only the best guide-book to that city ever written, but the best guide-book to any city ever written."

Perhaps feeling left out of things, Links himself on p. 95 of his book calls James Morris "by far the city's best twentieth-century chronicler". Levin does not seem to have written a book about Venice for Links to praise, but undaunted he recommends on p. 151 the "Vecia Cavana, favourite Venetian restaurant of that well-known gourmet, Mr Bernard Levin". As I said, Britons in Venice are either package tourists or authors, and it is hard to say which is the tighter-knit group.

This may explain why books on Venice tend to treat buildings as important only if they have been visited by English writers. Ruskin stayed here, but did not like the view, is one famous comment. Byron first stayed here in Venice, is another, and seduced his landlord's wife. Browning did a lot of staying, died here as well. Wagner moved from the gloomy Danieli hotel to the Palazzo Giustiniani, where he cheered himself up by writing *Tristan*.

As we have been told so often, Venice is a very homogeneous city, which is another way of saying that all the streets

are more or less the same, so I hit on an ingenious idea for not writing a book about Venice myself. All the traveller needs is one sheet of paper to hold and read as walks round, to describe everywhere. Here it is.

On your right, notice a large palazzo. Palazzo is the Italian word for an otherwise undistinguished house in which a famous English writer has stayed. Here Ruskin stayed for a while, though he left after complaining of the view of Browning opposite.

Round the corner we will find a charming bridge, on which James Morris once stopped a passer-by to ask him for the name of a good restaurant. The good-natured stranger, who was none other than Bernard Levin, tipped the Vecia Cavana, and even gave him several cards for the place, recommending the spaghetti con cozze.

The canal which passes under the bridge was the scene of a strange naval disaster in the 1870s when Mr Wagner's grand piano, being transported from the Danieli Hotel, broke loose

and sank. It blocked shipping for eight months; after it had been raised Browning moved into it for a short while.

Pass on to No 3984, which was a convent until the early nineteenth century, but which was closed down after Byron had visited it and seduced most of the occupants. It is now a small museum dedicated to the memory of the Ruskins' dog, though it is not listed in any guide book, perhaps because it has not been found open since 1927.

The next church is known to the locals as La Chiesa di San Roberto, after Browning who lived there briefly but had to leave after Ruskin (but not Wagner) complained about the noisy late parties. There is a pleasing portrait of Santa Camilla, with which Lord Byron is said to have fallen in love for a while, and a leaflet in English which was described by Bernard Levin, or perhaps J. G. Links, as the best guide to any church in Venice, or indeed the world.

Passing the next canal, along which Lord Byron swam in his heroic swim across Venice, we come to the palazzo in which Wagner wrote his tragic opera *Ruskin*.

Conclude with a refreshing cup of coffee at the Bar di Giacomo Maurizio, named after James Morris but now renamed the Giannina Maurizio.

FRIDAY PAGE

Gillian Moore finds there to be collected than the auctioneer knows

"This is me doing something with my life." The handsome middle-aged woman who had enrolled on Sotheby's Collectors' Week was a newcomer to the nuances of salivary commodities and Japanese ivories. After 20 years of marriage to a Scottish farmer she is a fine judge of a Friesian cow or a collier, but with a divorce behind her and a new home in Kentish commonland, those skills no longer count. Nobody wants to employ a woman in her forties without formal qualifications. The man she lives with wants to marry her but she resists being hustled willy-nilly into a second mistake. She discovered the pleasures of collecting last December when she fell in love with a Biedermeier mirror in an antique shop and found herself saying: "I want that. Why shouldn't I have it?" From that moment, she pinned her hopes for a new start on antiques.

The first day of the course exploded her optimism. The experts' knowledge oppressed her. The prices they banded about outraged her. Worse, when she fished out the snapshots of her new purchases they shook their heads disapprovingly. But by the end of the week she was buoyant again. Escaping from the claustrophobia of her emotional problems to meet new people had doubled her confidence.

Maybe the experts could summon more facts, but her taste, she had decided, was as valid as theirs. She knows now that she is not too old to acquire a new talent and she is ready to try a spot of dealing. Her parting words: "I've come alive."

The agents of this revival were 10 of Sotheby's auction room experts who scammed through their specialties and discussed objects coming up for sale. Sotheby's runs their Collectors' Week four times a year as a public relations exercise to encourage new customers into the saleroom. It is very effective, they say, but it makes virtually no profit and might be at risk under a sterner new regime. At the same, at £150 it is no great bargain and the most prominent participants were wealthy collectors from Belgium, Singapore and America who were coming up for forthcoming sales.

Other women had come for less mercenary reasons. One was poised to direct her abundant energy to study after years of child-rearing and dutifully accompanying her husband on his business trips. She had already thrown herself into flower arranging, mastered it and had her judge's certificate. Now she needed stronger meat. Another had escaped her teenage children and the kitchen stove to hover as near as she dared to the glitter of the London art world.

A third was an inveterate course taker, a single woman in her late thirties who had, while away innumerable weekends and evenings on everything from bridge to wine. There were, incidentally, a couple of



The romantic objects of art's desire

men, but one was a dealer and the other had vanished by Monday afternoon.

The mixed bunch of heiresses, housewives and lonely hearts being thrilled with desirable objects in Sotheby's are just the top end of a booming leisure industry.

NADFAS, the National Association of Dealers, and the Arts Society, occupies the middle range. Founded in 1968, it already boasts 27,500 members and is still opening about 10 new branches a year. The mass market, for instance, is served by the National Trust Centres, independent local "gatekeepers" clubs for the National Trust, which began in a small way in 1948, started mushrooming in the 1970s, and now have 100,000 members between them. Both NADFAS and the National Trust Centres put on lectures and study days on art and antiques, and organize guided trips and voluntary work.

So who is consuming all this culture? The short answer is women, every time.

NADFAS was founded by and for women and in the early years meetings were generally held during the day. Although men are admitted and meetings now often take place in the evening, sales still make up only 5 per cent of the membership. The National Trust Centres are a little more balanced, with members

ship varying from 60 per cent to 90 per cent female according to the locality.

The official programme of the course or the arts society is rarely what interests people most. They go along because their friends are doing it, because they enjoy dressing up for candle-lit receptions, because there is a waiting list, or because they have a better excuse for taking a day off from their families. Most of them, of all, they do it because they enjoy it.

Not that they would admit to such a thing, at least not at first. A passion for art was always the official reason for being there, although few could remember quite when the spark was lit.

The officials of NADFAS and the National Trust Centres are equally disinclined to discuss people's motives for belonging, and naturally resist labelling themselves social services. There is always a pause and a new, reluctant tone when they allow themselves to admit that, yes, there are members for whom this is almost the only chance to see new faces.

Little things can make or break a weekend away for an elderly single woman - things like whether she is obliged to share a room with somebody else. The National Trust centres make a point of arranging trips only to places where they can

accommodate single people in single rooms.

The big hotels that put on cultural events have a different formula for success. Their aim is to make the art so innocuous that you can even bring your husband along if you have one. When the Imperial at Torquay gets Arthur Negus down for an antiques weekend it wads the lectures between so many champagne receptions and gastronomic banquets that even the philistines could doze through them painlessly.

I went on a weekend of tours round country houses offered by the Grosvenor in Chester, along with two retired couples who wanted to see a fresh bit of countryside, a quiet widow and a pair of middle-aged newly-weds who were using the occasion to let off some steam.

At our communal dinner table the husband, barely out of earshot of his wife, gave his end of the table a lurid account of what she could expect if he ever caught her being unfaithful. Next day discretion returned and we concentrated on spying on the owners of the country houses, their dogs and their Sunday lunches, all of which afforded richer entertainment than their pictures and their Persian carpets.

One might have expected a more committed class of person to turn up in Worthing at one of the summer porcelain seminars arranged by Geoffrey Godden, chairman and author of standard works in his field. And indeed the audience on my weekend included some dealers and serious collectors. But my neighbour was an elderly widow who confided that she had come to

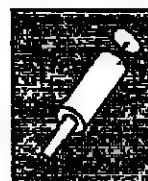
lessen the disappointment of two supplies she had bought not being delivered on the day they had been promised. She liked china, she often bought a piece as a souvenir when she went on holiday, and she had come with a friend a few months before to another of Godden's seminars.

She had been nervous of coming this time on her own in case nobody spoke to her. In the event, she managed to talk to strangers and enjoy herself. Godden is wise enough to let on refreshments at frequent intervals to feed the social wheels turning.

If women were filling themselves with art just for the sake of the company, one would feel desperately sorry for them sitting through all those words and slides in order to arrive at the coffee break. They must genuinely like what they are learning, though, otherwise they would have stayed with the ladies' luncheon club and the charity jumble sales. In entertaining themselves, they are keeping a great many museum curators and junior auctioneers in pocket money, even though the successes - and the boom in all these courses - must be rated more in terms of happy exchanges than of uplifted minds.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Persuasion at a premium



Persuading parents to have their children immunized against diphtheria, polio and tetanus has become increasingly difficult since the scare over the safety of the whooping cough vaccine. But just because there are fewer cases of these diseases now does not mean that the diseases have disappeared - the cases of diphtheria in London last year illustrate the point.

In America it is compulsory for all school children to be vaccinated - an approach that would be unlikely to make any headway in this country.

Dr Joginder Kumar Anand, district community physician in Peterborough, has come up with a novel suggestion for persuading parents. Writing in the *British Medical Journal* last week he suggests a £5 premium bond should be offered to all children who have a complete course and a £15 bond to every girl leaving school who is vaccinated against German measles.

Dr Anand admits the scheme would cost money but, he argues, there would presumably be savings in caring for ill and disabled children.

Drink deterrent



Doctors in Dundee are concerned that an initiative from the Department of Transport to track down problem drinkers who commit more than one drink/driving offence may backfire because the department's selection test is too arbitrary.

The department intends to look into the drinking habits of drivers who are found to have 200mg to 100ml of alcohol in the blood on two occasions in a ten-year period.

Doctors working on the *Tayside Safe Driving Project* who have just published their own results in the *British Medical Journal* say that the 200mg to 100ml figure is arbitrary and does not really identify those drivers at risk - at two and half times the legal limit for drinking and driving it accounts for only 5 per cent of all drink/driving offenders.

Using a more sensitive biochemical test the *Tayside* doctors have revealed, by taking two blood tests at a nine-month interval, that as many as a third of all drivers have a long-term drink problem - a much higher incidence of heavy drinking than in the general population. They also discovered a conviction does not deter the majority of people from drinking again.

The intention of the Department of Transport's initiative would be to rehabilitate problem drinkers: they would be banned from driving for three years and they would then have to prove they had overcome their drinking problems. Dr James Dunbar, who took part in the *Tayside* survey, believes it would be relatively easy for barred drink/drivers to mislead the court into believing they had controlled their drinking using the Department of Transport's criteria.

The biochemical test can reveal immediately whether a driver has stopped drinking or not.

Accusing Africa



As the number of people with AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) escalates - over 1200 cases have been reported in the United States and

although official UK figures are lacking, 22 cases have been seen in one London hospital alone - the heat is on for epidemiologists to find the cause.

As a consequence the traditional vehicle of medical debate - the letters pages of the learned journals - have been ringing with ideas. No fewer than five letters to the *Lancet* discussed the problem last week.

Three of them pointed an accusing finger at Africa where a condition similar to AIDS - depressed immune defences which lay the sufferer open to infections and cancers - is endemic. The suggestion is that the American AIDS epidemic has suddenly developed because a pathogen, probably a virus, common to other parts of the world has got into a very vulnerable and promiscuous population - most AIDS patients so far have been homosexuals.

AIDS in a Danish surgeon working in Zaire and Zairian women and her children are noted in the letters. Doctors at the Harvard School of Public Health point out that AIDS first appeared in Haiti in 1979, the same year that African Swine Fever virus hit the island. Possibly a modification of that virus is the culprit, they suggest.

Diabetics at risk

The economic squeeze on the NHS has made the United Kingdom one of the worst places in Europe to be a diabetic with kidney disease.

A third of Britain's 250,000 diabetics who need daily insulin injections to keep them alive will

develop kidney problems later in life. Ten years ago few anywhere in Europe would have been treated because doctors doubted that therapy would do any good. Now, however, they acknowledge its benefits and, according to the latest statistics from the European Dialysis and Transplant Association - which keeps tabs on all kidney patients - the number of European diabetics receiving a kidney transplant or dialysis has shot up twentyfold since 1976.

Not so in the UK. In the five years from 1976 there was only a threefold increase in the number of diabetics offered help. In 1981 still only 5 per cent of new kidney patients were diabetics, which contrasts sharply with the record in Scandinavia where the figure is nearly 19 per cent. But for a new dialysis technique the situation in Britain might have been even worse. Nowadays 50 per cent of diabetics with renal failure are put on to continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis. With this technique sufferers regularly put into their body cavity a special fluid which draws poisons out of the blood stream. The method is cheap because it can be done at home.

Mystery ingredient



The Nigerian equivalent of the hamburger, *suya*, is causing alarm to doctors in Lagos because a number of people are suffering from a peculiar form of anaemia and jaundice after eating it. *Suya* is a popular barbecued beefsteak sold in roadside stalls. Meat covered with a red powder which turns brown on cooking seems to be the culprit and the first ill effects occur a couple of days after eating it.

It is not known what goes into the powder - red *suja* has been in existence for many years - but there could be a new ingredient because patients with anaemic symptoms have been discovered only in the last couple of years.

The doctors who have traced the illness back to *suja* have written to the *Lancet* drawing the attention of the medical profession world wide to the puzzling diagnosis.

Their concern is because sufferers have nearly all bought their red *suja* in Shagamu - a crossroads town near Lagos airport. One patient has already been discovered in London.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

Olivia Timbs is editor of *Medicine* and Lorraine Fraser is science editor of *General Practitioner*.

Shirley Lowe meets Twiggy as she begins the beguine on Broadway

It's like Fred and Ginger all over again... innit?

Back in 1967, when she was 17, Twiggy made a film called *Twiggy in New York* to promote a range of clothes bearing her name. "O! cul this fringe mess!" she told the crowd who admired her Minichella hair and nearly ethnic headband. A man on the pavement was unimpressed: "She'll last a couple of weeks," he said.

Twiggy is now back in New York and on Sunday she opens on Broadway singing and dancing like Ginger to Tommy Tune's Fred in a remake and rewrite of Gershwin's *Funny Girl*, retitled *My One and Only*. The Americans adore her - no mean achievement in a culture obsessed with the Dolly Parton silhouette - and at every preview they stop the show and applaud wildly as she slips onto the stage in clinging white satin.

Twiggy at 33 is prettier than ever, and a more durable product than anyone in the '60s would have predicted. In fact, although she was professionally packaged and presented to the public by her ex-boyfriend and agent Justin de Villeneuve (Michael Davies for short) Twiggy turns out to be not a showbiz product at all but a thoroughly nice girl with the guts and go and good looks to stretch a rather small talent as far as the star's dressing room.

That is where I found her, surrounded by pale pink flower-patterned Laura Ashley cushions and dozens of pictures of her four-year-old daughter, Carly. "The most important thing in my life."

Twiggy has never been much of a talker. "O! like it 'ere," she announced at one press conference soon after she arrived. Pressed for brief reasons, she turned to Justin. "What do you like?" What she says is often unmemorable but her way of saying it is irresistibly appealing, which is probably why interviewers so often quote her "innit" and "norah" London "now" vowel sounds.

She still has the accent, and when she is supposed to be speaking terribly posh on-stage it tends to slip out: "Yer've gotta be joking!" Everything in her life says Twiggy has just sort of happened to her. "It's like I never planned anything. I was very content, very happy being a model. It was marvelous, really. I was making all that money and then, one day, I was having dinner with my mate, Ken Russell, when I happened to say I had seen *The Boyfriend* and somebody had suggested I ought to do a film of



Twiggy with top hat, tails and Tommy Tune

it. He said: 'Oh great, I'll direct it'."

So, after MGM, who owned the story, had had a heart attack about Twiggy starring in their film - "They didn't know whether Liza! dance and sing or not and neither did I!" - she made *The Boyfriend* and that's where she got to know Tommy Tune, the dancer/singer/choreographer/director (Tony Award winner who put the new show together).

"I came out to the States because I was doing a film called *W* - and that's how I met Michael (she married American actor Michael Whitney six years ago) and he kept on going on to me to do *Liza in Expatiation* before I was too old, or I wouldn't have done that, either."

The Whitneys were moving back to Britain from Los Angeles when all this happened and, although Twiggy is honoured to be on Broadway - "It's a giant step forward for me" - it has postponed the

house in the country - just outside London - which, she believes, is the ideal place to bring up a child. At the moment they are living in a rented apartment in New York. Carly goes to a very good Montessori school nearby and a friend of Twiggy's from Los Angeles is looking after her.

She hated almost everything about L.A. "You can't go for a walk and even the flowers aren't real. It's a bloody desert, that's what it is, and people have built a city there." Most of all she hated their values: "Everything is judged by youth and beauty and success and they'd stab their best friend in the back for a deal. Well that's awful. Honesty and integrity mean nothing and the kids in L.A. are brought up in this false world and they're all screwed up. I wouldn't let a child grow up there for anything."

Having Carly, she says, has changed her way of thinking completely. "The first thing you think about when you wake up

is your child, and it's the last thing you think about when you go to sleep. Sometimes, I wake in the night and think 'What will it be like for her?' Now I know why my mother worried all the time. I mean, I love Michael very much but he's mad about riding and he keeps talking about getting Carly on to a horse. Carly... on a horse! Her eyes widen with horror."

She refuses now to be photographed with Carly. "I grew up in Newcastle, an ordinary London suburb and, even though I was spoiled to death and had everything I wanted, Carly obviously lives a very different life. Oh, I'm so proud of her, I'd love to show her off, but I don't think it would be good for her."

It can't be easy being married to such a recognizable celebrity and there have been reports from Hollywood that Michael, who is 15 years older than Twiggy, would prefer to be the main breadwinner.

"I don't think he really minds me being more famous than him because, after all, I was when I met him. But there are those awful people who are all over you and I know that's what you're with. Well I think that's just rude and that's one of the reasons we don't go out to parties much."

Another reason is that Twiggy, like most successful people, truly enjoys work more than play.

She rehearsed the dance routines for eight hours daily before the show opened and is touchingly pleased with the gift of a silver mirror which belonged to Adele Astaire, who starred and danced in the original with brother Fred in 1927. "Adele Astaire," breathes Twiggy. "Why, she's practically my idol."

Another thrill came her way at a preview. "I'd just taken Carly to the loo off my dressing room - she'd had all that ice cream and drinks and that - and when I came back, there was Lucille Ball. I couldn't believe it. I just gazed at her and I must have seemed daft, I'm sure. But she loved the show!" Twiggy has been a headlining success ever since she faced the cameras 18 years ago to become the world's first child model celebrity. She says she has changed ("I've grown up, got wiser, I hope. I probably don't trust people as much as I used to") but her enduring, and endearing quality is that she still acts more like a fan than a top model, a film star or the lead in a Broadway extravaganza.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Heads I win...

David Irving, the right-wing historian who has been denying the Hitler Diaries as fakes, is at the same time claiming a 10 per cent commission from *The Sunday Times* for his information and leads. Irving contacted *The Sunday Times* in December, offering his information on condition that if the paper paid for serialization or digest rights to the Diaries he should be granted commission. He suggested 10 per cent, and claims now that in the "extensive oral communications" which followed *The Sunday Times* did not query this figure. Magnus Linklater of *The Sunday Times*, who spoke with Irving, says their last conversation some weeks ago revealed that Irving by then believed the papers he had been looking at were fakes. "Our purchase of the Hitler Diaries owes nothing to Irving and was negotiated without help from or reference to him", Linklater adds.

Forked tongue

A *Times* man who was in Berlin in 1945 retrieved a painting signed by Adolf Hitler from the ruins of the bunker. He took it, and on his way out met an American sergeant whose prize was a cutlery marked "A.H.". They compared booty and the sergeant so coveted the painting that our man, judging the spoons and forks the better bet, agreed to swap. A few days later he found the cutlery had come from the Adlon Hotel.

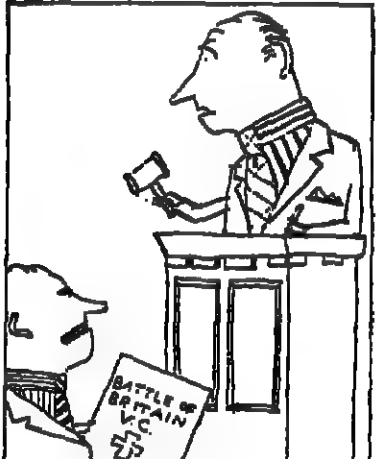
House wine

Clement Freud has tabled an early day motion deploring the "surreptitious means by which mediocre South African wine has been sneaked into the cellars of the House" and noting "the reluctance with which it is being marketed". The South African wine, he says, are being smuggled in by means of postcards. They do not appear on the refreshment department's wine list. When they are sold it is like someone shuffling up and saying: "Do you want my sister?"

Rod of irony

News that the Department of Education is considering giving parents the right to veto the corporal punishment of children in state schools lends irony to a panegyric of Sir Keith Joseph in the latest *Newsline*, the official Tory paper. In an article headlined "Discipline: Teachers can Labour", Sir Keith is praised for refusing to bow to pressure against causing "despite a ruthless campaign by 'do-gooding' fanatics egged on by the Labour Party."

BARRY FANTONI



"The bidding is against you, sir, at twelve o'clock high"

Worker's control

My former chief, Sir William Rees-Mogg, evidently gets along all right now with the workers at the Arts Council. He has just announced the appointment of the former chief shop steward - though they call it chairman of the staff association at the Arts Council - as music director. Rees-Mogg describes Richard Lawrence as "exceptionally able" and is "all the more pleased the appointment is made from existing council staff".

Some woolly thinking crept into the postal ballot for elections to the British Wool Marketing Board. The board is now looking for a producer whose official envelope was returned postmarked *Lampeter*, containing not a voting form but a £5 note and a shopping list for pet food and custard powder.

Rowdy or Nutter?

The present row about whether Oxford United should merge with Reading could not, *New Society* argues, have happened to a better club. It was Oxford's terrace the social psychologist Peter Marsh inhabited for three years to observe the fans' behaviour. His researches classified football hooligans into two groups, Rowdies and Nutters. Now he might become a Rowdy or Nutter himself. He opposes the merger and took part in Saturday's demonstration on the pitch.

A manipulative feminist has rewritten Punch and Judy for a puppet festival to be held at Covent Garden on May 8. Di Seany's show is, of course Judy and Punch. Judy, she says, resembles an East End mum and "quite like men." Reversing the classic pattern, she triumphs over the Devil (a DHSS inspector) and the Hangman (a Thatcherite). The same character becomes Bowling Ali, Muhammad's Rastafarian baby brother.

PHS

The innocent and the insidious

Both CND and the Labour Party favour Britain giving up her nuclear weapons, but a clear distinction should be made between the two groups. Most of CND's members are muddled, mistaken idealists, with no experience of international affairs and no knowledge of the Soviet Union or Eastern Europe.

They have a very understandable fear of nuclear war and the present profusion of nuclear weapons breeds in them a strong and emotional conviction that they should do something about it, even if it is the wrong thing.

The Labour Party, however, knows well what it is doing. The left wing is pro-East and wants to make Britain and the West weaker. The right wing is pro-West and knows that unilateralism is wrong. But it does not want to make itself weaker in the party by openly opposing Labour's lurch towards neutralism.

An exception should perhaps be made for Mr Michael Foot. He became a unilateralist at the age of 45, and has been one for the succeeding quarter of a century (except when he was in the Labour government). He is the same in beliefs and prejudices as he was when he used to spend his Easters ambling between Aldermaston and Trafalgar Square, even though the world has changed.

But the CND is not cynical. It is at least as innocent as Mr Foot was in the 1950s.

Sir Ian Gilmour warns Conservatives not to confuse CND with the real political opposition

CND's basic fallacy is to think that the West and the Soviets are very like each other and are both equally to blame for the cold war and the arms race. So CND equates Nato and the Warsaw Pact. But the Warsaw Pact is a facade. It is wholly Russian-dominated. Nato is entirely different. No country abrogates to itself the right to determine the political and social arrangements of its neighbours - Nato is an alliance of free countries.

From the fallacy that East and West are basically the same stem all the other fallacies. Mr E. P. Thompson seems aware of the danger. He has talked of "the sleepwalkers in the peace movement" and of the peril of CND placing its trust in the Soviet Union. "It is time for the peace movement to wash the sleep out of its eyes..."

Recently we have heard from a Czech dissident who writes in the *New Statesman* under the name of Václav Ráček. "In contrast with you," Mr Ráček told Mr Thompson, "I am deeply convinced that

liberty is a necessary condition of peace, of true peace... Human history shows that liberty must, very often, be gained and defended by force..."

Mr Ráček knows what he is talking about; he lives under a totalitarian dictatorship. Until there are human rights in Russia, the Soviet system will present a danger to the West.

Once it is conceded that the conditions in East and West are fundamentally different, CND's policy is plainly indefensible. Since there can be no genuine peace movement in the East, one-sided disarmament by Britain would produce no response, save laughter from the USSR.

At the time of the 1962 Cuba crisis, the US had a strategic nuclear supremacy of about 60 to one. Hence, in those days, Mr Foot's unilateralism was a harmless fad. Today there is nuclear parity. Unilateralism, like Mr Foot, is no longer harmless. For Labour now to seek to rupture Nato is a consensus act of sabotage. That is not true of CND, which does not know what it is doing. CND can be defeated in argument. For Labour, the only cure is the ballot box.

The author, Conservative MP for Chesham and Amersham, was Lord Privy Seal from 1979-81. This article is extracted from a speech given by Sir Ian to the York University Conservative Association last night.

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The Ascendants' descendants on the way up

Dublin A Protestant wedding reception in the Irish Republic recently ended with a dilemma for the Roman Catholic band: should they finish with the Irish national anthem?

Out of respect for the supposed susceptibilities of the wedding guests, the band played something else. The guests knew nothing of the musicians' concern and, had they done so, would probably have insisted on the anthem being played, as it is at the end of many social functions, public and private, throughout the country.

But the incident neatly encapsulates how the Republic's small number of Protestants are often viewed as not quite fully fledged Irishmen or whose allegiance to the state is not 100 per cent. Their position in a predominantly conservative and Roman Catholic country has been highlighted in recent months by the tortuous political, religious and medical debate on the proposal to introduce a constitutional amendment banning abortion.

Being under the spotlight is not a position many lay Protestants relish. A lot of older people are reluctant to speak out publicly on any controversy which might lead to them being branded with the offensive "West Briton" label. Their leading clergy have had no such inhibitions and have entered the abortion debate with such vigour that one member of the Dail accused Dr Victor Griffin, Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, of being "another Paisley".

Behind these public utterances, in

which the Dean has said that Protestants are fed up with the continual debate on sexual matters, is a growing confidence, especially among younger Protestants, about their place in the Republic's society.

Churchmen also believe that the number of Protestants could be rising after the sharp fall of the last 60 years. Huge losses in the First World War, the withdrawal of the British Army and Civil Service, emigration at the time of the 1921 partition, smaller families and mixed marriages - all have contributed to the sharp decline, from around 300,000 in 1911 to 120,000 - 4 per cent of the population - in 1971.

In areas of Dublin, Protestant schools report a bigger intake and in one suburb the Methodists are considering building a new church to cope with their growing congregation. One Methodist minister reported similar growth in central Ireland, although the drift continues from the West.

The signs of the Protestant revival are being cautiously welcomed. It is occurring at a time of rapid social change when a large, youthful population knows little of old divisions and probably cares even less.

Traditionally, most Protestants have been middle-class with strong representation in the midlands and they have tended to live self-contained lives. But the exclusively Protestant preserves have been swept away, with Trinity College now having a majority of Roman Catholic students and the Guinness brewery long ago opening its door to the majority religion.

"Protestants today are becoming much more mainstream and there is less sense of being apart, especially among the younger people," says Dr Griffin. But he accepts that there have been problems of identity for the older generation, whose parents still remember the break with Britain.

There may be anger at the assumption that every Irishman is a



Dr Griffin: "Less sense of being apart"

Roman Catholic and that you can be a true Irishman only if you are one. David Piercepoint, a young Protestant bank official brought up to mix with Roman Catholics, said: "I'm an Irishman with complete loyalty to the state. I would like a united Ireland, although without the violence, which I abhor. I have no feelings of allegiance to Britain, although I do admire it."

Neither does this younger generation have the inhibitions of its parents in discussing with Roman Catholics the often taboo subjects of abortion, contraception and divorce. But although these matters are talked about freely in ordinary conversation, the non-Catholic churches are more wary about being seen to be in the vanguard of movements pressing for changes on such moral issues.

One reason for the recovery in Protestant numbers could be the more liberal interpretation by the Roman Catholic clergy of the mixed marriages issue. The canon law requirement that every effort be made by the Catholic partner to

bring up any child of a mixed marriage in the faith is not only probably the greatest strain in everyday relations between the two faiths but the one that brings the deepest resentment among Protestants.

Dr Griffin said: "There is a great feeling of loss in Protestant families when a son or daughter marries a Catholic. We see it as the way to annihilation and as most unfair on the couple getting married."

Yet churchmen say that many "mixed" couples, especially in urban areas where social pressures have eased, are bringing up their children as Protestants. A Dun Laoghaire minister estimates that 25 per cent of the children at his Sunday school are from mixed marriages. Dr Griffin says that more couples are trying to bring up their children in both faiths, allowing them to worship in the church of each parent. He adds: "We don't want all the children brought up as Protestants. We regard it as a private matter for a couple to solve."

Richard Ford

How one Botha has caused P.W. a spot of local bother

comes from the liberal Progressive Federal Party, which is hoping for a striking victory in the conservative heartland of Afrikanerdom.

The fourth by-election is to the Transvaal Provincial Council, and will take place in Carletonville, a mining constituency south-west of Johannesburg, where the NP incumbent recently died. Though considered less important than the other three, it will be an interesting test of opinion among white miners, who form one of the most conservative groups in the country.

If the government loses badly to the CP, it could set Dr Treurnicht's handwagon rolling again at a time when it had seemed to be losing momentum, and encourage more Nationalist MPs to climb aboard. Conservative Party MPs could also take it in turn to resign their seats and force the government into an almost endless series of damaging by-election campaigns. If the reverses continued, the Prime Minister, Mr P. W. Botha, would almost certainly have to call a general election.

Moderate whites are worried that right-wing victories in what the local

press has dubbed the "battle of the bergs" would put paid to the government's modest reforms. But many liberals would welcome such an outcome in the belief that it would hasten the disintegration of the Afrikaner nationalist base of the ruling party. In their view, that is the only way in which a truly reformist realignment of white political forces can be brought about.

There is no doubt that it will be close-run. If the government wins, of course, the picture will be transformed. The far right will have suffered a devastating psychological blow, and Mr Fanie Botha will be remembered as a hero rather than a blunderer. For the moment, however, the ruling party shows all the symptoms of being in an advanced state of panic.

One factor in the government's favour is the continuing failure of Dr Treurnicht to achieve a fully-outcome in the belief that it would hasten the disintegration of the Afrikaner nationalist base of the ruling party. In their view, that is the only way in which a truly reformist realignment of white political forces can be brought about.

Meanwhile, senior cabinet ministers are scurrying from meeting to meeting in the Transvaal enumerating at length all the things that are not going to change as a result of the reforms. At the same time, the government is trying to persuade coloureds and Indians, as well as opinion abroad, that it has embarked on a major departure from the rigidities of classical apartheid.

The confusion in government circles has been reflected in the Prime Minister's gyrations over the issue of a referendum. In February, it was announced that he had decided against a referendum. A few weeks ago he suddenly changed his mind and said that one would be held for whites only after the constitutional changes had been passed by Parliament but before they were implemented.

This led to pressure for similar but much more hazardous tests of coloured and Indian opinion. To which Mr Botha grudgingly gave in, though without committing himself on the timing, only to declare a week ago to general derision that no referendums would be held so long as the drought lasted. Political correspondents here are now looking to the weather bureau rather than the Prime Minister's office for further guidance.

Michael Hornsby



Fanie Botha: blunderer - or will he turn out a hero?



Andries Treurnicht: his handwagon could start rolling again

David Watt

Coming to terms with Andropov

The Soviet commentator Alexander Bovin is, as his name suggests, a great ox of a man, a fat man with an even fatter man inside trying to get out. He is also a personality of great intelligence, humour and charm. Some of you may have seen him on television the other night telling viewers that no serious dialogue with the Americans is possible so long as President Reagan remains in office. Others may have read him in last Sunday's *Observer* urging moderation in East-West relations. It is worth considering what he had to say not just because his trip to London last week to attend the Anglo-Soviet Round Table at Chatham House comes at a highly charged moment, but because he is said to be very close to Yuri Andropov.

Bovin's argument, as he explained it to me, runs as follows. All revolutions - English, French, American, Russian - begin with ideology, but time and the demands of external events dilute this element until eventually the overwhelming ingredients are pragmatism and national interest. Soviet Russia, since the death of Lenin, has proceeded predictably along this path and now stands at a place where ideology is still important, certainly, but where pragmatism is already the dominant flavour.

For Bovin, the paradox and puzzle is that the United States, which had its revolution more than 200 years ago and has duly progressed according to plan, has suddenly under President Reagan turned in the opposite direction and is now, apparently, determined to lead an ideological crusade against communism and the "empire of evil" that is the Soviet Union. This is depressing and dangerous, says Bovin. National interest is negotiable but Holy War precludes compromise and leads to the final horrifying clash between good and evil at Armageddon.

This is nice stuff, and so far as Reaganism is concerned, expresses a puzzlement that spreads far beyond the Soviet Union. The problem, as always with Soviet controversy, is to know how much of it is tactics disguised as sincerity and how much is sincerity creeping out from behind a safe mask of tactics.

On the face of it, of course, the whole thesis is a shameless piece of effrontery. There is nothing on earth more relentlessly ideological than a Soviet commentator when he wishes to make his points in that form. Who has been talking about (and indeed conducting) the death struggle between capitalism and Marxism-Leninism all these years? More than that, ideology is the air that Soviet leaders breathe, the water they swim in and in the end the justification of their existence.

The fifteenth-century papacy, worldly, corrupt and aggressive as it was, never divorced itself entirely from ecclesiastical and doctrinal considerations: similarly Soviet foreign policy, however much nationalism and self-interest may appear to dictate its moves, is under the ultimate necessity of clothing these imperatives in doctrinaire dress - a process always present and always significant. So much is this the case that we may wonder why Bovin has not been arraigned for heresy and burned at the stake in suitably cinquecento style for daring to speak in such secular terms. To this question the cynic will give three answers.

First, he is close to Mr Andropov and therefore has a licence to say pretty well anything he pleases (so long as Andropov himself survives). Second, so able a controversialist

would undoubtedly have a fireplace of casuistry ready in case he is halted before the Inquisition. If theology is to one's taste, there are many entrancing hours to be spent speculating what this defence might be, but I suppose that its first line would be that the eventual triumph of communism is so inevitable that "ideology" is in a sense irrelevant. Thus, when the late lamented Comrade Khrushchev remarked to the capitalists: "We will bury you", he was not announcing an ideological intention but merely stating an historical inevitability.

The third reason for Bovin's insouciance might be said to be that the Russians have excellent tactical reasons for talking to us in this way at this particular moment. The French, having an anti-Soviet bias, the West Germans are suspected in Washington of "neutrality". The British are not only worried - politically, but definitely and at all levels - about the Reagan administration, they also still have some influence in Washington and are in a mood to try and exert it.

How, then, if we were in the Kremlin, should we handle the British? Well, we adopt our most civilized tone. We appeal to their sense of history and moderation. We speak more in sorrow than in anger about this brash, uncouth, on-British fellow in the White House whom more mature, experienced nations have to try to restrain for the good of humanity. In short we butter them up, and who better qualified to lay it on than Comrade Bovin?

At the same time it is important that we shouldn't outsmart ourselves. It is entirely consistent with pragmatism and with their self-interest that the Russians should believe (a) that the arms race is too expensive and that some compromise is therefore desirable at Geneva; (b) that the Reagan administration does not really propose to compromise except on terms of overwhelming superiority, and (c) that Reagan is actively determined to destroy them and their system and to risk a nuclear war in the process.

Again, there is nothing inherently impossible in Bovin's particular gloss on all this or in the supposition that Mr Andropov has about as much practical concern with ideology as Pope Alexander VI - a potentate underpinned by an absolute philosophy but one with whom it was possible to do business on a limited basis and even, occasionally, to dine, provided you took suitable precautions.

Yet, at the end of the day, it scarcely matters whether the Russians are sincere and truthful in this account of the present feelings or whether it is all tactics. We have to answer the questions for ourselves. Lord Carrington supplied an authoritative set of British answers in his Alistair Buchan Memorial Lecture last week, saying in effect that a Geneva deal on compromise terms is in our interest; that the Soviet system will collapse in the end of its own accord without dangerous assistance from us; and that dogma and "megaphone diplomacy" are out of place in our deals with the East.

He is quite right. What is most required at the moment is calmness, firm self-confidence and flexibility. And the fact that for the time being the Soviet leaders, ably represented by Mr Bovin, would probably agree for a variety of reasons, good and bad, with the general Carrington position while Mr Reagan would probably not, does not necessarily invalidate it.

Philip Howard

Cry wolf and unleash an age-old fear

Never trust a man with pale grey eyes, or one whose eyebrows meet in the middle. Be suspicious of his bushy grey hair growing out of his ears. If he takes his clothes off and circum-micturates around them, run for your life; for you may be sure that he is a werewolf, a man-wolf, probably derived from the Old English *wer*, cognate with the Latin *vir*, a man. There are no female werewolves. Vampires, yes; she-werewolves, no.

It is a remarkable what a strong hold the superstition about the man who can turn into a wolf, the *loup-garou* of France, has upon our imagination. The last wolf was exterminated in England in the reign of Henry VII, though wolves survived in Scotland until well into the eighteenth century. The wolf is extinct in the New World, except in Alaska. And yet the comic strips, the trash thrillers and the video shops still do brisk business with tales like *I Was a Teenage Werewolf*. To some extent, the manic hitch-hiker has replaced the werewolf as a popular horror from the wild outside who intrudes into our civilized world.

The other day I was lucky enough to meet Richard Buxton of Bristol University, who is doing research into the myth of werewolves. You find them *passim* in the classical literature, though not as *passim* as in medieval literature. The wolf is a potent symbol of cruelty and wildness; which is odd, really, since wolf's main enemy, man, is far more cruel and wild. Left to itself, the wolf preys on large ungulates, rabbits, mice and other vermin; but not man. When food is scarce, it turns to domestic animals; hence the warfare with man, who has been raising stock since neolithic times.

From the earliest literature the wolf was a symbol of the outsider, the cruel predator. Remember Dolon, the incompetent Trojan night spy, who significantly wore a cloak of a grey wolf's skin (old English proverb: "The wolf must die in his own skin"). The Eumenides, your friendly local Furies, said to his disposition was like a raw-minded wolf, "it cannot be appeased".

In the sources the wolf is also a symbol of cooperation. Dogs all look different. Wolves look alike, and share their kill; so they are perceived as cooperative. There is an agreeable antique anecdote of a man running away from a pack of wolves and taking refuge in the Nile. But the wolves held on to each other's tails and so reached him from enough into the river to get their man.

Then, very early, you get your werewolves. In the Greek myth of the flood, Zeus finally lost his patience with the race of man when Lysaon, the King of Arcadia, served him a stew of human flesh for dinner. So he turned Lysaon into a werewolf: "he keeps the same grey hair, the same fierce face, the same gleaming eyes, the same picture of beastly savagery." Pliny tells the story that one of the family of Antaeus was chosen annually by lot to be transformed into a wolf, in which shape he continued for nine years. There are others. And the idea of wolf eating man persists. In extreme old age, Milo of Croton, a heavyweight athlete, got his hands caught in a tree he was trying to tear apart. The wolves came and ate him, demonstrating that their bite was worse than his bark.

Myths are not just fairy stories. They are powerful patterns for thinking about things. We evidently still need the werewolf as the pervasive and potent image of the marginal outsider who is different, and therefore dangerous. But, as the old Canadian trapper said: "Any man who says he has been eaten by a wolf is a liar." I always thought that "Black as halfway down a wolf's throat" was Damon Runyon's original. Not so, I see that *Escuro como boca de lobo*, dark as a wolf's mouth, is at least 300 years old in Spain.



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

DOWN MEXICO WAY

President Reagan's dilemma in Central America is a European dilemma too, though for different reasons. So it is important for European governments to show understanding of the intensity of feeling which the issue excites within the American administration, even though they might have different opinions about how President Reagan should seek to resolve his dilemma.

In his address to the joint session of both Houses of Congress on Wednesday, he recognized that, even within the USA, many people find it hard to believe that what happens in Central America has any significant bearing on American strategy. The fact that he sought the address was itself an eloquent indication of the difficulty he has had in persuading American congressional opinion, and public opinion at large, to recognize this truth. "Too many have thought of Central America as a place way down below Mexico that cannot possibly constitute a threat to our well-being."

He pointed out that El Salvador - a small faraway country of which we in Europe know little or nothing - is nearer to Texas than Texas is to Massachusetts; that Nicaragua is as close to Miami and many of the major cities of the southern United States, as they are to Washington; that two-thirds of all the foreign trade and oil traffic pass through the Panama Canal and the Caribbean. In more important context for his European allies, he said that at least half American supplies for Nato would go through these areas by sea during an emergency.

That is the crux of the matter, which is often lost on the European mind. If the United States becomes primarily preoccupied with the threat posed to its neighbours by revolutionary movements in Central America, and, in particular with the danger of that revolutionary infection spreading to Mexico, leading to a surge of refugees and subversives across the long uncontrollable common border, into the huge and growing Hispanic population centres within the United States, there

will certainly be no time for Europe's needs. Indeed the British experience last year during the Falklands crisis, though it had a happy ending, should have provided a sufficiently salutary warning to all America's Nato allies that a continental strategic perspective could easily outweigh an Atlantic one, unless the infection is contained.

In those circumstances - and with their shared intelligence material - the Western allies can certainly agree with Mr Reagan that "the Caribbean basin is a magnet for adventurism". The Cuban revolution is, and always has been, for export. The same can now be said for Nicaragua. With Cuban help come the ubiquitous East Germans, and their military methods and equipment.

The dilemma for Mr Reagan is that, while he and his administration are haunted by the prospect of a revolutionary leftist Mexico, Mexico itself appears to have no such fears for the future. Does he therefore press ahead with his lonely crusade to canterize the Caribbean, or does he seek to enlist the help of moderate Central American governments, clustered together in the Contadora Group, and work through them towards some kind of diplomatic military and economic settlement?

Hitherto they have stood aside from the United States policy, believing it to be too starkly pinned to the promise of a military victory in El Salvador. That scepticism seemed to survive even the successful election held last year when, as President Reagan pointed out, more than eighty per cent of the electorate voted in defiance of the guerrilla threat "Vote Today, Die Tonight". The election did not solve anything, and no further election is likely to do so either. It should be noted, however, that elections are a comparative rarity in that area, particularly among those countries loudest in their criticisms of the United States. None the less the election was an impressive demonstration for peace, which may receive further encouragement from the tone of Mr

Reagan's address this week.

The President expressed the hope for a bipartisan policy. He recalled that President Carter had initially helped the Nicaraguan revolutionary government before it betrayed his trust. He emphasized that three-quarters of American help to El Salvador is economic, and that there was no question of American troops entering the region. He proposed that, subject to verifiable and reciprocal regional arrangements, all foreign military advisers and troops should be withdrawn from the area. He also recognized that the issues are not simply a contest between those wearing white hats and those wearing black by calling for a dialogue not just between countries in the region but between groups within each country.

European governments can echo those sentiments without necessarily endorsing all the actions of the administration within the affected area. Europe has little influence or expertise in Central America, but what it has should be harnessed. Blind support for the United States, particularly from Britain after the Falklands episode, would do American policy no good, though there is also no case for pursuing the clever ploys taken for purely internal left-wing consumption, by French policy makers in the region.

Europe should use what influence it has in the area to help moderate Central American governments come forward into a more active role that in turn would take the heat off the United States. There can be no disputing the fact that the stability of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and others would suffer gravely if the calculated subversion of the area was seen to succeed. To that extent they too have a vested interest in helping to relieve the United States of some of its preoccupation.

The same initiatives taken by the Contadora Group, for instance, could easily prevail where Washington would fail. Smoke is rising from Central America; it must be more sensible to help put out the fire, than to argue about how to do so.

NO EASY EXIT

Nobody is left much the wiser by Mr Justice Woolf's response to the Attorney General's request for a High Court ruling that it is a crime to distribute the Voluntary Euthanasia Society's "Guide to Self-Deliverance". The good judge plainly felt acutely uncomfortable at being put in the exceptional position of being asked to declare that a given action is criminal, as distinct from declaring that it is not. As he rightly says, the answer will depend on the circumstances, the intent and the outcome, and it must be for a jury to weigh these matters at the time. But it is clear that those distributing the booklet remain in theory very vulnerable to penalties ranging up to 14 years' imprisonment, under a law framed without regard to the peculiar circumstances of the case, and at a period when public attitudes in this area were materially different.

The booklet is addressed to readers who believe that they either are or may one day be in need of information to assist them to end their lives with the least risk of pain, failure or harm to others. It is not disputed that it does so in a responsible way, if the task itself is responsible; it is frank about the grimmer aspects of the act, and it recommends long delay and resort to medical and other advice before the reader makes a final choice. But if only by diminishing what the judge calls the deterrent of ignorance, it may clearly induce

a hesitant reader to choose suicide and indeed its writers clearly expect it to do so. On the face of it, that would seem to fall under the 1961 Act's prohibition of any act that "aids, abets, counsels or procures the suicide of another". Some such sanction is necessary against those who gain evil or irresponsible individual influence over victims of emotional crisis. Many suicides and attempted suicides are perhaps most - spring from acute desperation, over health, money or personal relationships which the victims may look back on a few months later, with incredulity and thankfulness that they have survived. One of the most pregnant lights in the character of suicide is the sudden fall of no less than one-third in the British suicide rate the years 1964-70, apparently as a result of the introduction of non-poisonous natural gas in the home. If the means are readily to hand, impulse will make use of them; if not, the crisis is likely to pass.

It is not for such cases that the booklet is designed; or if it is, it is designed to persuade them to stop and reflect. The society imposes restrictions intended to confine its circulation to readers with a settled interest in the topic. Without these controls, its position would be far weaker. It has become widely accepted today that it is a legitimate exercise of personal freedom to make a cool decision - for instance, in the face of incurable

progressive illness - to end one's life. There are dangers in this change of attitudes, which the publication of the "Guide" must tend to reinforce. Useful inhibitions against impulsive suicide are likely to be eroded, and (perhaps a greater matter of concern) some disabled or elderly people anxious not to be a burden may be put under greater psychological pressure to carry the idea of self-effacement too far.

The judge summarizes the circumstances in which he considers that it might be an offence to distribute the "Guide". A prosecution could not succeed without proof that a recipient had actually been assisted or encouraged to make an attempt by the booklet. The judge doubts whether it would be a sufficient defence for the distributor to be able to show that he had no individual knowledge of the circumstances of the recipient; a jury might find that a general knowledge that a significant number of recipients would be contemplating suicide provided the necessary proof of intent. The length of time between receipt of the booklet and the suicide might be crucial. It is all highly uncertain, and distinctly arbitrary: so much so that a prosecution would be a lottery scarcely serving the interest of justice. Rather than try the lottery, the Attorney General should consider clarifying matters with fresh legislation, as the Judge virtually invites him to do.

STUNG BELOW THE WATERLINE

The storm that has broken out over Soviet submarines in Swedish waters may well prove to be a turning-point in relations between the two countries, and to be an episode of wider European significance. For years Sweden has been noted as the most outspoken of European neutrals. Often in the past this quality has been irritating to Nato countries, and especially to the United States. Mr Olof Palme, the Swedish Prime Minister, has not been America's favourite foreign politician. Towards the Soviet Union Sweden has frequently given the impression of being too trusting. But if that has been true in the past, it is so no longer.

The report from a parliamentary commission of the number and extent of the violations of Swedish territorial waters by Soviet submarines has come as a shock to Swedish politicians and to the general public. The charges have been denied by

Moscow, but that has done nothing to undermine the authority of a commission chaired by no less a figure as Mr Sven Andersson, the former defence and foreign minister. There will be no disposition in future, as there has sometimes been, for Sweden to suspect that their navy's Soviet submarines at convenient moments when defence expenditure is under review. They now have evidence that Soviet submarines have illegally entered Swedish territorial waters on numerous occasions and have even sailed into Stockholm harbour.

Mr Palme has responded to the report with a firm protest to the Soviet Union and a warning that their submarines would be fired upon if they infringed Swedish territorial waters again. This does not mean that the Swedes are about to give up their cherished neutrality. There is no possibility of that: neutrality is too deeply ingrained in the

Swedish consciousness. Moreover, fear mingles with indignation over the submarine disclosures and there is no willingness to take unnecessary risks, either with Swedish or indeed with Finnish security which many Swedes believe would be put in jeopardy if Sweden were to give up its neutrality.

But while Sweden will remain neutral, there may well be a change in the nature of its neutrality, a greater readiness to be publicly critical of the Soviet Union. Sweden has always known throughout the postwar years that any threat to its security would come from the Soviet Union, not from the Nato powers. This episode will have made that threat seem more real. It does not mean that Sweden is about to be invaded, but it does indicate how little respect the Soviet Union has for the legal rights and for the territorial integrity of others.

Ending television licence fee

From Mr David Elstein

Sir, The implications of cable television for the BBC are far less threatening than Howard Davies (feature, April 26) suggests. The question is how will the BBC respond?

The philosophy which underpins cable's advent is to give the consumer greater choice and the broadcaster greater freedom. If the process of deregulation continues beyond the introduction of cable, the next step is not the abolition of the BBC, but the abolition of the licence fee.

The licence fee's main defect is not, as Mr Davies argues, that it is a regressive form of taxation. The 20p cost of purchasing *The Times* daily also falls equally on rich and poor alike.

First, there is an inherent objection to forcing users of television sets to pay a fee to the BBC irrespective of whether they view BBC programmes. This blanket charge is aggravated by the inevitable grudgingness that develops between the BBC and its audience, deriving from the element of compulsion in their relationship. This is unhealthy for both sides.

Secondly, the licence fee is set by politicians. In the recent inflationary past this has left the BBC exposed to the displeasure of Westminster in a way which has diminished public confidence in the BBC's editorial independence.

A solution to both these problems is to allow the BBC to set its own "subscription" level by abolishing the licence fee system. A simple mechanical device would be put on sale at the beginning of each year, which, when inserted between the aerial lead and socket of a domestic receiver, would "unscramble" BBC television. The cost of the device could be varied each year.

License fee evasion would end, no one would pay for programmes they did not want to watch, and the BBC would recover its freedom. A direct, healthy relationship between consumer and producer would ensue.

Of course, some viewers would choose to do without BBC programmes and decline to buy the device. However, the BBC will scarcely complain at losing such involuntary licence-payers. And, given the unchallengeable evidence of what I predict would be extremely high subscription levels, we might all be spared the constant reminders from the BBC about the wonderful value it gives.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID ELSTEIN,
Brook Productions,
2 Newburgh Street, W1,
April 26.

Trial in South Africa

From Miss Mercy Edgedale

Sir, You have reported (April 20) Mr Odric Mayson's statements regarding the likely dangers befalling the Rev Beyers Naude should he have been a witness at Mr Mayson's trial in South Africa. Once more we have read stories of torture in South Africa which, to say the least, foul the pages of *The Times*. You have also reported President Kamanda's dire warnings of war in Africa if the West does not change its attitude to South Africa. But nowhere do you report the source of this freedom to torture and freedom to support South Africa with financial investment.

They come about through South Africa's continuing destabilization of her neighbours, a practice she has carried out through military and subversive means since Angola's and Mozambique's independence in 1974.

It is the reason why Zimbabwe is suffering as she is today, and because of British firms' (oil companies and financial institutions) constant support of South Africa throughout VDI (through action-bonds and through making immense illegal profits) it is they who today carry the burden of blame.

Yours faithfully,
MERCY EDGEDALE,
55 Queen's Gate Mews, SW7,
April 22.

Uniform opportunities

From Mr A. R. Ritchie

Sir, Recent correspondents (April 20) on the suggestion that unemployed young people should be given the opportunity of a year's military service appear to believe that training in the use of arms will encourage them to turn into armed criminals in future years.

To use a hand-gun, be it a revolver or automatic, requires only the ability to load it and to press the trigger. hardly something which needs a year's training. The most popular criminal weapon, the shotgun, is not used by HM Forces.

I have not noticed a marked tendency towards armed violence in those trained in the use of firearms in past conflicts: most of us were only too pleased to get rid of our armaments.

Yours faithfully,
A. R. RITCHIE,
Whitliffes,
Ramsden Heath,
Billerica, Essex,
April 20.

War-torn Iraq

From The Ambassador of Iraq

Sir, *The Times* has published on April 14 an article by Helga Graham about which we wish to clarify certain points.

The Iraqi military forces not only lack the occasional Iranian attacks but also lack the Iranian military machine with a view to putting an end to its threat to Iraq and the Arabian Gulf.

CND and the duties of the cloth

From Mr E. E. Y. Hayles

Sir, The moderation of your leading article, "Campaigner of the cloth" (April 27) on the matter of Mr Bruce Kent's position in CND will, I am sure, be welcome to many Catholics. I am not a member of CND but, like others, I read what I can of the arguments for and against it and I have found those of the Monsignor invariably clear, honest and cogent, as my acquaintance with him in other contexts would lead me to expect.

To speak of him, as you quote the Conservative MP for Louth speaking (report, April 27) as doing the work of the Kremlin seems to me a smear and altogether unhelpful in this gravest moral and political issue of human history. Such language invites the rejoinder that those who continue to pile up the missiles while dragging their feet in the multilateral disarmament talks at Geneva are doing the work of the devil.

Anybody who can remember the protracted impasse, year after year, of the disarmament conference of the thirties at Geneva is unlikely to be surprised by the deadlock developing there today. Certainly there are serious risks in CND policies as there are in any policies in the position we have now reached. But at least they are risks incurred in a cause recognisably Christian and motivated by a refusal to share in guilt for genocide.

Yours sincerely,
E. E. Y. HAYLES,
East Martyns,
Church Street,
West Sussex,
April 27.

From Mr R. A. Kennedy

Sir, On April 6 I wrote to Cardinal Hume and, as a Catholic layman, asked "... is it in order for a priest of the Church to hold office in a movement such as CND and does not his conversion with the movement and the consequent publicity lead the uninformed to believe that the Church actively supports CND?"

I went on to express concern that a member of the priesthood should actively associate himself with "a smear" that is becoming a political issue...

The Cardinal has now pronounced on the issue; such pronouncement being, I suggest, entirely motivated by his very proper concern for the Church and not in the least by any consideration of a political nature whatsoever.

Yours,
R. A. KENNEDY,
41 Avondale Road,
Clayfield,
Derbyshire,
April 27.

From Mr A. J. George

Sir, In your leading article today (April 27) about the position of Mr Kent as General Secretary of CND you say that some priests in some

situations are driven by moral fervour into the heart of political activity.

Surely when that political activity stems from deep concern for an issue which goes to the very core of man's humanity that is exactly where one may expect to find a priest.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. GEORGE,
Flat 14,
93 Elm Park Gardens, SW10,
April 27.

From Mr Roger Graffley-Smith
Sir, Although a "wet" Conservative, I have no doubts as to the wisdom of opposing the CND philosophy. However, in the matter of Mr Kent your issue of April 27 reveals all too clearly the lack of "tolerance and respect for another's motivation" which some Conservative politicians quoted there are encouraged to display on this issue.

Since Cardinal Hume has made very clear his own and thus presumably the Church's view, there should be no confusion.

History is littered with examples of men of the cloth speaking out in defence of moral principles unpalatable and detested by the government of the day. Pastor Niemoller's archbishop no doubt received similar advice in more recent times. Surely the British way of proceeding in these matters is to confront the argument with all the passion and logic at one's disposal and not to seek to silence opponents such as Mr Kent, or even Mrs Ruddock, by putting pressure on their employers?

Yours faithfully,
ROGER GRAFFLEY-SMITH,
Finsbury Circus House,
Blomfield Street, EC2,
April 27.

From Canon George Austin

Sir, Canon Paul Oestreicher complained (BBC Television News April 23) that Mr Heseltine had smeared CND by suggesting that a number of its most prominent leaders had communist or extreme left tendencies. But the Defence Secretary actually named names, and CND apologists have made no refutation of their political affiliations. So where is the "smear"?

On the other hand, Mr Oestreicher, speaking on BBC Radio 4 (Today, April 27) asserted that certain politicians had brought enormous pressure to bear on Cardinal Hume to take action against Mr Bruce Kent, yet he flatly refused to identify the offenders. Surely this is a smear in the best (or worst) political tradition and entirely characteristic of the pedlars of extremist philosophies.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE AUSTIN,
The Vicarage,
19 High Road,
Bushey Heath,
Warford,
Hertfordshire,
April 27.

Duke and the bomb

From Lord Caldecote

Sir, I was disappointed to see that in your issue this morning (April 27) you incorrectly reported on an address given yesterday by his Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, in which he referred to the value and the danger of nuclear weapons.

While the substance of Prince Philip's address was correctly reported, the circumstances were not. His Royal Highness was opening the "Mantech" Symposium on the Social and Cultural Challenge of Modern Technology; this symposium was organised by the Fellowship of Engineering, of which Prince Philip is the Senior Fellow. The opening session was held at the Institution of Civil Engineers, but the Institution as a body was not responsible for the symposium.

The Fellowship of Engineering is an interdisciplinary body of engineers with a present membership of

some 500 Fellows. It aspires to become for engineering what the 300-year-old Royal Society represents for science as a whole, a focus of knowledge, excellence and influence in the service of the community.

Yours faithfully,
CALDECOTE,
President, The Fellowship of Engineering,
2 Little Smith Street,
Westminster, SW1,
April 27.

From Mr R. F. Ward

Sir, Now that Royalty has intervened in the nuclear debate, should it not be acknowledged that the question is non-political?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD F. WARD,
Cricket Field Cottage,
Smalhythe,
Kent,
April 27.

Hitler diaries

From Mr O. Zametka

Sir, Should Hitler's diaries be published or should they, as the Chief Rabbi so forcefully argues (April 26), be ignored, irrespective of whether or not their authenticity is substantiated?

Sir Immanuel, pleading on the grounds of "morality and truth", points to the fact that the diaries are calculated to exculpate their author. While this is true, it does not constitute a case against publication. Inevitably, all diaries, memoirs and other forms of recollection add up, in varying degrees, to an exercise in apologetics and are treated as such by the historical profession. Yet the incidental information revealed in the process is frequently very valuable.

In the case of Hitler's "testimony to posterity" - always assuming that it is genuine - such information, given its historical context, might prove to be of extraordinary importance to historians of diplomacy, war and ideology. Indeed, it would be immoral not to publish the diaries. For the cause of truth is certainly not served by the suppression of evidence, whatever the form it takes and whoever produces it.

Few people doubt the diabolical character of the Nazi regime. No

amount of argument to the contrary, let alone that which emanates from Hitler himself, can change our fundamental views on the matter. If it did, the Chief Rabbi would of course have the dubious satisfaction of witnessing his warnings justified.

In that event, however, we may as well abandon the study of history as positively dangerous.

Yours faithfully,
O. ZAMETKA,
Corpus Christi College,
Cambridge,
April 27.

From Dr Peter Dockwrey

Sir, As a believer that books are the one thing in the world of which one cannot be administered a lethal dosage, I was appalled by the emotive terms in which Sir James Jacobovitch, the Chief Rabbi, roused us to revulsion against the publication of the so-called Hitler diaries, "whether they are authentic or not".

If genuine they will certainly illuminate the 1940s. If fraudulent they will alert us to the abiding depravity of the 1980s. When and if they are published, will he, I wonder, incite us to burn them?

Yours faithfully,
PETER DOCKWREY,
17a Upper Park Road,
Hampstead, NW3,
April 26.

consideration for human life than the rulers of Iran who, in refusing peace, try to justify their precarious position while sending more children to inevitable death or capture at best.

Another point which Helga Graham has made a mistake about is the position of the Kurds in Iraq. They also in actual fact are in the constitutional structure of the state, both in the legislative and the executive bodies as well as in autonomous Kurdistan, all within the framework of an Iraqi state.

She has mentioned some operations by outlaws, describing them as guerrilla activities. They are in reality nothing more than individual cases of neither consequence nor impact.

As to the reduction of the salaries of civil servants and officers by 20 per cent, she must have been talking about another country, for in Iraq nothing of the sort has happened.

Yours faithfully,
WAHBI AL-QARAGULI,
Embassy of the Republic of Iraq,
21 Queen's Gate, SW7,
April 15.

Telephone users unprotected

From Mr P. B. Matthews

Sir, Bernard Levin (April 20) would like British Telecom "to honour the contract" between them and himself in respect of telephone services. Would that there were one! In such a case one might sue for breach of contract and recover damages for losses suffered thereby.

But our wise and far-seeing Parliament has effectively insulated the public telephone service from anything so obnoxious as being liable to customers for not doing what which it is bound to do, by preventing contracts from arising at all. Services are rendered and charges are made under statutory schemes which avoid there being any contract. Further, liability in tort for causing loss to customers through (for example) failure of or delay in a telecommunication service is, by a thoughtful Legislature, expressly excluded.

This was the position under the Labour Government's Post Office Act 1969, and is equally the position under the free market-loving Tory Government's British Telecommunications Act 1981. Admittedly the new Act deems there to be a contract in relation to the hire of apparatus and to the insertion of certain special entries in directories, but in general it remains the case that no customer has a contract with British Telecom for telecommunication services.

Thus, not only may the corporation insult Mr Levin by ignoring his requests, but the courts are all but powerless to help him. How can a Government pledged to the free market economy justify such comprehensive protection for an organisation enjoying an effective monopoly?

Yours faithfully,
PAUL MATTHEWS,
Faculty of Laws,
University College London,
4-8 Endsleigh Gardens, WC1.

From Mrs Margaret A. Mills

Sir, Pass the broken phone Mr Levin (feature, April 20), I shall be left behind you in the queue. My daughter was married last Saturday, April 16, and British Telecom has hit the novel idea of spreading the happiness of the occasion over a longer period.

They delivered the telemessages, handed in last week for the reception on Saturday, on several days this week. The third one arrived by the second post on Wednesday, April 20; this despite a guarantee of delivery by first-class post the next day.

The Post Office has joined in, too. With the same happy intention of spreading happiness around they have left parcels containing wedding presents on the doormat in order that passers-by can help themselves and so join in the general rejoicing. Yours faithfully,
MARGARET A. MILLS,
Eden House,
7 Eden Close,
Thorp St Andrew,
Norwich,
Norfolk.

Fading in the hills

From Mr D. B. Walters

Sir, Dr M. Hughes (April 8) fears that poor examination results by some 15-year-olds in Wales stem from the misguided devotion of resources to the preservation of Welsh and supports this view from Tim Jones's report on March 25, which quoted briefly from the surveys of the Assessment of Performance Unit (APU).

APU sample surveys recognize that a number of "background variables" affect performance; one of these is fluency, in mother tongue or second language. But APU surveys in Wales on mathematical and linguistic ability conclude that there is no statistically significant difference in numeracy or literacy between first and second language users (see e.g. 1st Report on Secondary School Language Performance, 1982, paras. 5.11 and 6.10). On the contrary, three variables govern good results, in Wales as elsewhere: a teacher/pupil ratio of 1:25 or better; a non-metropolitan catchment area; and one that is relatively affluent (measured by the numbers taking free school meals).

Although CSE and GCE results are not the sole test of ability at 15+, high failure rates reflect discreditably on our school system. That does not justify the Language Freedom Movement (on whose behalf Dr Hughes presumably writes: see his letter to you of June 6, 1977) claiming that APU surveys support its hostility to Welsh-medium and bilingual education.

If the APU criteria are sound, it is on long-standing governmental neglect of industrial Wales, not on zeal for *Ysgolion Cymraeg*, that Dr Hughes should lay the blame.

Yours faithfully,
D. B. WALTERS,
1 Cambridge Street,
Edinburgh 1,
April 27.

Hard-boiled

From Mr J. P. Wilton

Sir, I was intrigued to read in today's *Nature* notes (April 25) that the writhen hen lays six minute eggs. Presumably the tiny creature is trying to ingratiate itself, but it should be aware that four minutes is long enough for any egg, let alone a red-spotted one.

If this is an example of avian motherhood, I am thankfully yours, bleakly,
J. P. WILTON,
London House,
Mordenbury Square, WC1,
April 25.

THE ARTS

Cinema

Seriousness woven into comedy

Tootsie (PG)
Odeon Leicester Square

A Shocking Accident (PG)
Odeon Leicester Square

Ascendancy (15)
Academy

Barbarosa (PG)
Screen on the Green

Ill Fares the Land
ICA

"I was a better man with you as a woman than I ever was with a woman as a man". Dustin Hoffman tells Jessica Lange in the final minutes of *Tootsie* after divesting himself of wig, dress, make-up, dazzling smile and southern accent. The convoluted sentence, hilariously delivered across a Manhattan pavement, triumphantly sums up the film's comic games with sexual identities, unparalleled in mainstream Hollywood since *Some Like It Hot*. It also spotlights the serious thoughts about human behaviour woven into the comedy - a mixture that has helped *Tootsie* become the biggest American box-office success ever produced by Columbia.

Sydney Pollack's film impresses with its acuity and assurance even during the credit sequence. As Hoffman's embattled New York actor runs the gamut of doomed auditions, we sit back comfortably in the knowledge that performers, director and scriptwriters (Larry Gelbart and Murray Schisgal) know their business precisely. All, indeed, have considerable experience of show business vicissitudes: Pollack himself began as an actor before turning to direction, and contributes a sharp, effective cameo as Hoffman's bewildered agent. The comedy remains bright-

eyed as financial pressure transforms Hoffman's Michael Dorsey into "Dorothy Michaels" - a southern lady of poise and resilience who lands the part of a hospital administrator in a television serial called *Southwest General*. Anyone with experience of soap opera's crazy world will spot the awful truth behind the film's lampoon: the weathered matinee idol with neither talent nor memory, the actor who finds his character killed off when he requests a raise; the dialogue that sounds "like dialogue from a Czech movie". *Tootsie* recreates the panic and paraphernalia of American television in a way *My Favourite Year* never achieved.

But the film's power principally derives from the extraordinary "Dorothy Michaels". From one standpoint, she is a blatantly theatrical creation, invented to fill a specific soap-opera role. Yet when Jessica Lange "sadly" murmurs "I miss Dorothy" in the closing minutes we know exactly what she means. Hoffman's astonishing performance has given Dorothy real feminine warmth and individuality. The script acknowledges this, too, by never resorting to sniggers: obvious jokes about sharing a female bed or warding off men's advances are introduced only to be lightly brushed aside. This discretion ultimately leads *Tootsie* into trouble: some scenes ramble without a climax, making the 116 minutes perhaps 16 minutes too long. The script also ungenerously shoves Teri Carr's character - Dorsey's absurdly insecure girlfriend - into a tight, unprofitable corner. But the bulk of the film is thoroughly entertaining.

So indeed is the British film accompanying *Tootsie* on national release in many cinemas: *A Shocking Accident*, winner of this year's Oscar for the best live-action short. Recommending a short film may seem like recommending scarlet fever - so patently have "full supporting programmes" become over the years. But James Scott's 25-minute version of a Graham Greene story is worlds removed from the documentaries on pearl fishing or Nato submarines occasionally encountered by unwary spectators. The shocking accident happens to the young hero's father: he is killed by an overweight pig crashing



Rapt commitment in a hair-shirt role: Julie Covington in *Ascendancy*

through a Naples balcony. School-mates consequently taunt the son with grunts; an aunt casually spreads the story during afternoon tea while her nephew cringes with embarrassment. Compared to Scott's previous work - the teasing feature *Adult Fun*, piercing documentaries on art, politics and society - *A Shocking Accident* is a work of modest ambition. But, with its sly humour, crisp structure and pointed visualization of a literary text, one can feel the same playful intelligence at work.

A clear, shaping intelligence similarly governs Edward Bennett's *Ascendancy*, made for the British Film Institute Production Board and winner of the Berlin Festival's Golden Bear award. However, it is hard to write about this psychological study of Irish disorders in 1920 without dipping into the critic's dead-end adjectives: worthy, commendable, competent. Like Scott, Bennett has experience in provocative documentaries (*Hogarth, Four Questions About Art*), and this first step towards conventional narrative procedures shows an effective use of low-budget resources. The scattered locations (none of them in Ireland) afford memorable images: servants frozen in Remembrance Day silence in the grand mansion of James Wintour, a Belfast shipyard owner; the congregation of a Catholic church huddled

in sanctuary during a violent night. Yet the striking moments and fascinating background of social decay fall to coalesce into compulsive viewing.

The problem chiefly stems from the depiction of the heroine, Wintour's haunted daughter, whose right arm hangs in psychosomatic paralysis since her beloved brother died in the Great War. Julie Covington, a specialist in hair-shirt roles, plays with her usual rapt commitment, but the character's obsessions never become the audience's, and the script's scheme of political-psychological parallels remains forever in embryo. The film is compact, decently made, eloquently photographed by Clive Tickner; greater enthusiasm, unfortunately, is impossible.

The comparative failure of *Barbarosa* is equally regrettable, for this is an example of that endangered species, the Western; yet the pleasure of seeing horses charging across Texas must be balanced against the pain of experiencing cinematic muddle. The Australian director Fred Schepisi, working for the first time in America, never finds an appropriate style to link the script's elements. Sometimes *Barbarosa* celebrates the Western myth of the unstoppable hero (Barbarosa himself, played by the country-and-western singer Willie

Nelson). Sometimes the film concentrates on a tale of romping robbers and multi-racial family feuds; sometimes it simply soaks up the landscape, photographed in Panavision by Ian Baker - Schepisi's cameraman on *The Devil's Playground* (1976) and *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith* (1978). But the strands remain unco-ordinated, and erratic post-synchronization only adds to the film's disorientation. As in *Honey-suckle Rose*, Nelson displays a pleasant, mischievous screen presence, though he lacks the epic charisma his part demands; fans should also note that he never sings anything.

The ICA is going Scottish during May, presenting, amongst other items, the Bill Douglas trilogy and Bill Forsyth's *That Sinking Feeling*. The chief exhibit is *Ill Fares the Land* (May 4-8), a shapely account of the last months on St Kilda, the far-flung islands off Scotland's west coast, evacuated in 1930. St Kilda is now an American military base, which explains why the film was mostly shot elsewhere. The writer-director, Bill Bryden, of National Theatre fame, recreates the dying world with such loving care that he drags the film down to the slow crawl of the islanders' hymn-singing. One is moved, but not very much.

Geoff Brown

Television

Age of consent

The Mutiny at Invergordon (BBC2 last night) is a story that can always stand a re-telling: the shock-horror story of sailors refusing to do what they were told is a much-examined skeleton in our national cupboard. Appropriately, it was the first in the series *Britain in the Thirties*. The trouble was that there were so many participants to field that the material and potential were too much for the time. Nonetheless, it was a gripping piece of television.

The mutiny arose over pay. Ramsay MacDonald's National Government was vainly trying to keep the gold standard. It cut unemployment benefit by 10 per cent and welcomed the Admiralty's extraordinary offer to pay all men on pre-1925 scales, which meant that many would get a 25 per cent cut. Their families already suffered considerable hardship, which the Royal Naval Benevolent Fund could not adequately relieve. The cut, which the men of the Atlantic Fleet heard of through a radio broadcast, was the last straw.

After meetings ashore, the mutiny occurred on September 15, 1931. The anchorage at Invergordon echoed all day to the cheers of men on the fo'c'sles of their ships - the method by which they kept up spirits and assured themselves of solidarity.

The programme included recollections from ratings and officers. One of the latter recalled how a beer mug had been thrown at him, an action confirmed by former ratings but evidently untypical. Another former officer reflected on Admiral Tomlinson, standing in for the C-in-C who was ill in Plymouth - "a quiet unpleasant little man" who "was quite unfit to take command of anything".

The Admiralty reacted slowly; the Government thought it a Red plot, being the fashion to attribute to Reds a cunning almost beyond human capacity. The ships were recalled to their home ports with a promise of inquiries and no victimization. The inquiries were ineffectual; the promise was broken. Len Wincott, one of the leaders who appeared, and 120 others were discharged with 13s. each and a railway warrant. For many others it meant no further promotion. Wincott later joined the Communist Party and went to live in Russia.

The lesson drawn, the programme concluded, was that a twentieth-century navy could only be run with the consent of the men below decks. Something there, I suppose, except that it took a war to drive it home.

Dennis Hackett

Jazz

Follow that . .

Miles Davis

Odeon, Hammersmith

I was wrong when I swore not to see Miles Davis again. That was back in the mid-Seventies when he was thrashing around on a jazz-rock sea like a man on a raft, and I did not want to return to see jazz's greatest modern stylist drawn trying to keep up with fashion.

Duty took me back to Hammersmith on Wednesday and there he was, still afloat on the jazz/rock/whatever gulf stream, but now like a man winning the America's Cup, not clinging to wreckage. The difference was spectacular. His trumpet playing had lost all hesitation and become more assured, more fluent, than I have ever heard it. He did things in one breath that might have taken three before - a favourite was playing a choice mid-register phrase, swooping up to a thrilling high note and then spiralling down to a wispy echo of the first phrase, in one long line. Playing fast or high, he never missed a trick; at slow tempo he sounded like the old Davis but better.

This new confidence has led to two amazing revolutions. One is that instead of ignoring the rest of the group he often supports other soloists by simultaneously playing trumpet with the left hand and stabbing

keyboard chords with the right, like some one-man big band. The other is that he has broken a 30-year oath to ignore his public and now waves back, flirts with their applause and even comes downstage to tease the photographers. At this rate he will be talking to us by 1985.

His crew moved smoothly to his commands. The saxophonist Bill Evans is lightweight and nimble, Tom Barney and Al Foster make a perfect bass/drums engine team, slipping from thudding rock to the subtle jazz backing, while Mino Cinelu, off to one side in his Latin American engineering shop, fills in any unnoticed gaps. Up in the rigging, Mike Stern's blues-based guitar is superb stuff, with one solo near the end so full of passion, light and shade it almost stole the show, though John Scofield's jazzier playing, even if fluent, is as monochrome as almost all jazz guitar has been since they first plugged it into the main.

Prowling everywhere was the captain, liberated from a stand-mike by some miracle trumpet attachment so that he could walk, play and keep an eye on the ship all at the same time. Miles Davis is back on the high seas and in front of the fleet again. I am not sure if he knows his final destination, but I would be a fool not to follow him this time.

Miles Kingston

Concerts

BBCSO/Sanderling
Festival Hall/Radio 3

Alfred Brendel
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Almost as a curtain-raiser to *The Gambler* at the Coliseum, the Royal Philharmonic Society on Wednesday presented another Prokofiev work from that same turbulent period around the First World War, his Second Piano Concerto. Not long ago this was almost as neglected as his Dostoevsky opera, pianists and audiences preferring the gladsome bravura of the Third Concerto or the youthful grand romanticism of the First. But the more sinister contents of Prokofiev's minor Concerto have begun to inebriate themselves into the repertoire, though rarely can they have sounded so dark and poisonous as here in a strong, urgent performance by John Lill and the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Kurt Sanderling.

The story of the first movement is one of progressive confusion and worry. Prokofiev begins with a lyrical theme, the most innocuous music in the whole work, and proceeds to nag at it until it shows its dangerous potentialities in the sort of nasty thick harmony that is characteristic of the work.

Mr Lill was excellent here. He started with a gracefulness unbecomingly poised on the brink of catastrophe, and under the pressure of some threatening moves from Mr Sanderling he developed his part through ever stranger regions of gancheness.

The ensuing Scherzo was frantic enough to strain the orchestra a bit and the puppet play of the third movement was no frolic; Mr Lill's movements were bulky and menacing, like dancing gargoyles, and he was now powerfully backed by his colleagues.

After this the finale could hardly be dashed off. The opportunities for carefree jollity, in the repetitive patterns, were taken rather to show how appalling a banal idea can become when it is mindlessly played over and over again, and the few sweet passages from the strings were siren songs that could not interrupt the concerto in its massive, demonic course. Once more Mr Lill moved through every bar with the ferocious drive of wild obsession matched by immense confidence, and his black brilliance was felt in the same measure by Mr Sanderling.

Prefacing this performance had come the musical fairytale *Kikimora*, by Prokofiev's teacher Liadov, a composer whose only engaging trait was the laziness that kept his pieces few and tiny. More to the point was Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony, heard after the interval, and complementing the Prokofiev as a four-movement circular journey within the locked sphere of its composer's head.

Despite occasional lapses in important solos, this was a challenging, serious-minded account which constantly - in the way the Scherzo smiled through its tears, for example, or in the depressed depression at the start of the finale - found new ways to tell the old emotional narrative.

Paul Griffiths

Theatre

Banality banished

Betrayal
Greenwich

Greenwich may seem to be treading on Peter Hall's toes with this premature revival of Harold Pinter's play, but Gary Raymond's production is a very different affair from the original National Theatre version. And, as one of those left cold by this occasion, I am glad to take this belated chance of acknowledging a beautiful piece of work.

Thanks to the scale and glassy performance style of the Lyttelton production, I quit the theatre mainly impressed by Pinter's ingenuity in telling a banal story backwards. At Greenwich, the story comes into close-up and sheds any trace of banality.

The size of the building has something to do with this, but so has the introduction of pop songs for every nostalgically receding date (each song, a learned colleague informs me, belonging to the year in question), the use of lighting (Brian Harris) to convey a sense of mortal transience and, most



Telegraphing the unspoken: Gary Raymond, Susan Farmer

of all, the performances of Mr Raymond and his two partners, Susan Farmer and Edward Hardwicke.

All my memory preserved of the dialogue was of exchanges of small talk between an affluently anonymous trio, whose lives consist of restaurant lunches, book chat, family routine and adultery in the afternoon. The small talk is there all right, but only as a mask behind which each character is observing the others and waiting for his own advantage. Even when conversation is flowing tranquilly

along, the staging contrives to telegraph the unspoken.

Witness Miss Farmer's eyes, invisible to her husband, as he prowls round the bedroom speculating on why Jerry should have written to her in Venice. "What do you think of Jerry - as a letter writer?" Mr Hardwicke spits out. And when she cuts his game short and unambiguously confesses the relationship, her line has the same kind of impact as a climax in Racine.

Details of the multiple betrayal are brilliantly clarified

by the sense of what is at stake emotionally. After the Venice scene, Mr Hardwicke tells the lover that the high spot of the trip was a morning he spent alone; an innocent remark brimming with revenge and pain once you consider it. The accumulation of these poisonous ironies is one benefit of the reverse narrative; another is the mordant literary from the spiritless end of the affair ("I don't think we don't love each other") to the rapturous opening declarations at the end.

Irving Wardle

Opera

Werther

Theatre Royal, Glasgow

The sorrows of young Werther are being played out this week in Glasgow in Scottish Opera's new co-production with Netherlands Opera, who first presented it a year ago. But, as

Massenet obviously realized, and as Rhoda Levine directing acknowledges, it is Charlotte who initially gripped Goethe's imagination; it is Charlotte whose presence advertises the opera on Scottish Opera's poster; and, with Cynthia Buchan magnificent in the role, it is Charlotte who dominates this production.

Miss Buchan's fluent and perceptive command of the verbal and musical language (the production is, for better or for worse, in French), her ability to inflect and ease in and out of the melodic line, are unmatched by anyone else on stage. Through the strong core of her voice and personality it is the vehicle for a boldly individual, highly intelligent characterization, carefully detailed and powerfully developed.

The dignity and conviction of her Act I declaration that "Albert m'aime - et je suis sa femme" is the touchstone for her tour de force in the central third act. Vocally and physically containing her suppressed emotion until it spills out in her unaccompanied cry of agony and in the rage within her prayer to God, Miss Buchan skilfully paces the revelation of Charlotte's suffering. And when she silently mouths with Werther the words of Ossian she seems to underline the cruel incompatibility of her love of a person and his love of love alone.

For Dennis O'Neill emphasizes the emotional isolation of a Werther who is also more than half in love with oneself. His placidity verges on paralysis; recalling Goethe's own words about embitterment through want of action, he is anything underplays the ardour for life which is surely there too in Massenet's music. But, for all his continually downcast eyes and occasionally swallowed words, it is a compelling performance, well thought through and musically sung.

Rhoda Levine's unobtrusive production lets the changing seasons speak for themselves: like the functional, inoffensive sets of John Conklin with whom she has often worked in the United States, she makes no points but gives plenty of space for individual interpretation and movement (particularly imaginative with the children).

Alan Watt is a competent and credible Albert, Deborah Rees a lightweight, perfectly agreeable Sophie, while Brian Bannatyne-Scott as Johann and William McCue as Le Baillet deserve more than a word of praise. Next to Miss Buchan the star of the evening should perhaps be Roderick Brydon, totally at one with Massenet's music, substantiating all that is going on on stage, and drawing dramatic playing, like and supple with inner detail, from the Scottish Opera Orchestra.

Hilary Finch

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Investment and Finance

City Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

City Office
200 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1X 8EZ
Telephone 01-837 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 698.8 down 2.2
FT 100: 81.60 unchanged
FT All Share: 439.34 down 2.17
Bargains: 25.765
Tring Mail USM Index: 172.3 unchanged
Tokyo: 8636.56 up 1.77
100 Yen: 1012.61 down 21.15
New York: Dow Jones Average (latest) 1210.04 up 1.64

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.5585 down 65pts
Index 84.2 unchanged
DM 3.8450
FF 11.5250
Yen 371.50
Dollar
Index 122.8 up 0.3
DM 2.4895 up 116pts
Gold
\$429 down \$2.50
NEW YORK LATEST
Gold \$428.50
Sterling \$1.5585

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Base rates 10
3 month interbank 10 1/4-10 1/2
Euro currency rates:
3 month dollar 8 1/4-9
3 month DM 5 1/4-5 1/2
3 month 13 1/4-13 1/2
ECGD Fixed Rate: Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for
interest period March 2 to April 5, 1983 inclusive: 10.974 per cent.

PRICE CHANGES

Davies & Newman 181p up 31p
Bodycote 59p up 8p
Westcoast 75p up 7p
Greener 144p up 13p
J. Laming 112p up 10p
B. Elliott 36p up 3p
Comet Tech 36p down 6p
Ventures 211.875, down 1.375
Lakes & Elliot 27p down 3p
Doornfontein 217.875, down 1.875
Winklesham 226.375, down 2.75
W. Rand Cons 59p, down 6p

TODAY

Interim Nons announced
Finals: Clayton, Son and Co (Hedge), Cole Grp, Hopkinsons (Hedge), IMI, Liberty, Long and Hamby (17 months), Portland Ind, Sunlight Service Grp. Economic statistics: Balance of payments current account and overseas trade figures (March).

Hoover trading profits improve

Hoover, the domestic appliance group, continued to improve its trading performance in the first quarter of the year, even though it was still in loss at the pretax level. The figure was £736,000 against £1.9m for the same period last year. At the trading level there was a profit of £66,000 against a loss of £916,000. The group reduced staff by 900 last year, to 5,900 but this year any further cut backs will be small. An average price rise of about 5 per cent is coming through shortly. Hoover says it has been obtaining better profits even without price rises, by introducing new higher margin products. The company's borrowings have been reduced, so that interest payments for the period were £492,000 against £1m for the same time last year. Group sales were up by 8.2 per cent, at £48m.

● **DEALINGS BAN** J&F Coated, the Scottish thread manufacturer, was banned by the High Court in London yesterday from dealing in the shares or assets of its wholly-owned English subsidiary, Davidson MacGregor. An injunction until May 6 has been granted to Buccaner which charging alleges that Coated failed to complete an agreement for the sale to Buccaner of the entire issued share capital of Davidson MacGregor.

● **INCOME INCREASE** Tricentrol, the independent British oil company, yesterday reported first quarter net income of £5.3m, £1.0m up on last year's figure. Mr James Longcroft, the chairman, said that Tricentrol had accepted the new North Sea oil price of \$30 a barrel, but continued to dispute BNO's right to backdate its price cuts to February and March.

● **BANK EXPANSION** The Royal Bank of Scotland has had its application to open a Singapore branch approved by the country's monetary authority. It plans to start business later this year. A Hong Kong branch was opened in 1978.

Wall Street mixed in moderate trading

New York (AP Dow Jones) - Stocks were pulling back and turned mixed in moderate trading. The Dow Jones industrial average was down a fraction after being ahead more than four points earlier. Advancing issues led declines by 7-40.

Honeywell way up 2 1/2 at 107 1/2. International Business Machines up 1/2 at 116 1/2. Motorola up 1/2 at 108 1/2. Texas Instruments down 1/2 at 144 1/2. Control Data down 1/2 at 46 1/2. Teletype unchanged at 140 1/2. General Electric up 1/2 at 109 1/2 and Digital Equipment down 1/2 at 144 1/2.

Data General was down 1/2 at 66 1/2. The company said it knew no internal or external reason for Wednesday's rise of 19 1/2. A report in a Boston newspaper yesterday said the rise was linked to rumours of a merger or acquisition, but the company said it knew of no takeover offers.

General Dynamics was 49 1/2 up 1/2. Procter & Gamble 61 1/2 off 1/2. Upjohn 36 1/2 off 1/2. Standard Oil-Oleo 46 1/2 up 1/2. Merck 90 1/2 unchanged.

Pension funds opposed to Harrods demerger, claims Fraser chairman

By Jeremy Warner

An independent report commissioned by the National Association of Pension Funds on the battle between Harrods and the main House of Fraser board over whether Harrods should be demerged from the rest of the department stores group, "endorses our view and diminishes Lonrho's argument," Professor Roland Smith, Fraser's chairman, claimed yesterday.

The report, prepared by auditors Coopers & Lybrand, was commissioned to help pension funds with a shareholding in House of Fraser to form a view on the war of words being fought through circulars from Lonrho and the main board on the demerger issue. Lonrho, the international trading group headed by Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, is trying to persuade other House of Fraser shareholders to vote against a board resolution at a shareholders meeting in Glasgow next Friday that Harrods remain in the group.

The resolution is linked to a vote of confidence in the board. Announcing pretax profits for last year up from £28m in 1981 to £33.19m, Professor Smith drew attention to a paragraph in the report's conclusion that appeared to challenge Lonrho's contention that shareholders risk nothing by demerging.



Holding on to Harrods: Professor Smith cites "demerger risks" in pension funds report

Harrods, the London department store, is the subject of the report. The report states: "We think that risks will arise from the demerger. Those risks will ultimately be passed through to shareholders who will have to judge whether their insurance is justified."

The report, which takes a neutral stance, states that the profit returns quoted by the minority directors "are not based on the financial projections prepared by the working party."

The attitude of the Merchant Navy pension fund in particular, which has comparatively recently built up a stake of 3 per cent of Fraser shares, is thought to be crucial for next week's vote.

The Merchant Navy fund has not yet exercised its voting power in a fight between the board and Lonrho.

House of Fraser is meanwhile planning to move ahead with a £50m redevelopment of Bakers of Kensington, west London, in conjunction with London and Metropolitan Estates.

Fraser's contribution to the cost of the development will be to inject the freehold valued at £20m.

Professor Smith said an announcement would also be made shortly on what was to be done with the Army and Navy store in central London which lost £500,000 last year.

City Comment

Aid for our economic acorns

Ministers have been making great play since the Budget of the measures being introduced to help the small companies sector. Earlier this week it was the turn of Mr Nicholas Ridley, financial secretary to the Treasury, who described the Budget package as the best crop of measures yet for small companies.

The number of new companies being formed has risen steadily since 1977 with a particularly sharp upswing last year when company registrations jumped by a fifth. Does this suggest that the Government's tax cuts and incentives have spawned a new breed of thriving entrepreneurs in the midst of the worst recession for 50 years?

Not exactly, according to a study from Dr Martin Binks and Mr John Coyne published today by the Institute for Economic Affairs. The study, *The Birth of Enterprise*, criticises the lack of government commitment towards the small companies sector.

Lack of suitable premises and the difficulties of raising start-up capital and financing early growth were what the Government should be focusing on. The banks too need to fundamentally change their attitudes, the study says, and become less cautious towards the small companies.

These prescriptions are not new but there may well be something in the call for a more long-term and dynamic approach.

On the loan guarantee scheme, for instance, the authors say the Government should abolish the 3 per cent interest rate premium and worry less about whether it is immediately self-financing. Instead it should view the scheme over a longer perspective and think of the taxes which the entrepreneur of today will pay as the big company of tomorrow.

Bank issues indexed long tap

By Sally White

The Bank of England took the gilt market by surprise with its issue of a new long tap yesterday. It is a new form of government security, as it is an index-linked Treasury convertible partly paid and to be issued by tender.

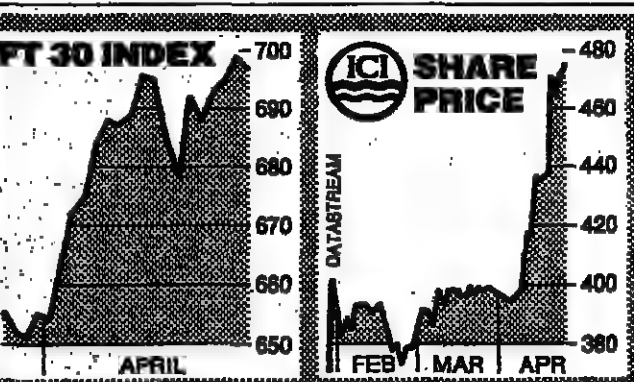
The gilt market saw the new tap as an attempt to make progress with government funding, which has been lagging in the uncertainty about the election. The index-linked element is a hedge against the inflation rises feared by some fund managers in case of a Labour victory, and the conversion into conventional stock appeals to hopes of capital gains on gilt price rises should there be a Conservative victory.

The gilt market felt as it might, because the tender on May 5 will be assuming, as expected, that the new tap will be at least fully subscribed, take £400m out of the market. By the close, long dates were down a half point, medium a quarter and shorts were down a fifth.

The stance of the authorities is that funding is going smoothly, and that the tap is designed to appeal to institutional investors, who have been worried about possible rises in inflation rates. The forecasts for the money supply figures released by a number of gilt brokers for April carry pessimistic assumptions for inflation and the market had been expecting the authorities to overfund.

The terms of the tap is that the £1bn of 2 1/2 per cent index-linked Treasury convertible 1999 is 40 per cent payable on May 5, the remaining 30 per cent on June 6 and the balance on July 4. The stock is convertible into 10 1/4 conversion stock 1999.

Conversion dates are November 22, 1983, May 22, 1984 and November 22, 1984. There is no minimum tender price. But if the stock went at par, which seems unlikely, the real yield would be 2.32 per cent and the yield to redemption on the convertible would be 9.82 per cent.



ICI profits surge surprises market

By Our Financial Staff

ICI surprised the stock market at midday by announcing a £128m pretax profit figure for the first quarter of 1983. That is well over twice the £62m it made in the first quarter last year, and £18m ahead of the most optimistic estimates.

The figures, released less than a minute after the noon calculation of the FT 30-share index, were enough to push the index through the 700 level by 1pm.

ICI's own shares rose to over 490p before reconsideration of the implications, together with profit-taking brought them back to close at 476p - a rise of 2p on the day. The index closed at 696.8 down 2.2 on the day. This is the second day running the index has topped 700, but failed to close at or above that level.

The market's failure to hold its earlier gains is attributable to two main factors: ICI apart, it was not a heavy trading day, and a closer look at ICI's figures prompted brokers' analysts to net out around £20m of the pretax figure as "potentially exceptional assets."

This attitude is endorsed by ICI itself. Mr Alan Clements, the finance director, told *The Times* yesterday: "Obviously it is encouraging to report increased profits of this nature, but as we have indicated there is a possible one-off element involved. On the other hand, there has been a genuine volume improvement of 4 per cent in the first quarter but again, so far, this has been localised and patchy."

The company states that all its leading chemical businesses performed better than during the previous quarter, with the improvement concentrated in western Europe. Elsewhere, business remained flat.

Investors' notebook, page 18

Heavy fund investment abroad

By Our Financial Staff

Pension fund managers are continuing to invest overseas with 27 per cent of total cashflow pumped into foreign markets during 1982, according to the latest pension survey from stockbrokers, Wood Mackenzie.

Fund managers also turned over their foreign investments more quickly with activity twice as great as in UK equities. With £1,209m channelled into overseas equities, foreign stockmarkets were the principal area of investment in 1982.

The Wood Mackenzie survey covers nearly 700 pension funds with a market value of £47 billion and represents 56 per cent of all UK pension fund assets.

Property remained out of favour soaking up only 13 per cent of total cashflow in 1982 compared with 23 per cent in 1977.

Average monetary return was 28.9 per cent during 1982, though returns ranged from 8.9 per cent in property to 52.4 per cent in fixed interest securities.

In real terms, pension funds have shown an average return of 4.8 over the last five years.

With pension fund actuaries expecting a real return of only 3 per cent, the figure of 4.8 per cent bears out the contention held by the Centre for Policy Studies in its pension review that pension funds are currently overfunded, providing an ideal opportunity when surplus cash is available within the funds, to improve the benefits of deferred pensioners (early leavers).

It also accounts for the decline in real terms on pension fund contributions, down about 20 per cent on the previous year as employers cut back on the cash going into the funds.

● A free advisory service for Britain's 12million pension fund members was launched yesterday. The Occupational Pensions Advisory Services (OPAS) has been formed in response to the call made by the Occupational Pensions Board in a report last year for a personal advice service for employees and pensioners in occupational pension schemes.

OPAS, which would be in a position to start operating in a couple of months is linking up with the Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB), which has 850 offices round the country. It offers free advice to anyone in an occupational pension scheme. Where appropriate, they will be directed to their employer or trade union representative or advised by pension experts, many of whom, OPAS hopes, will work voluntarily.

The OPAS initiative is the brainchild of Miss Margaret Grainger, a senior civil servant.

Call to wind up six Hunt companies

By Our Financial Staff

Up to 2,000 private investigators may be caught up in the problems of Exchange Securities and Commodities, the Warwick-based investment management group founded by Mr Keith Hunt.

Yesterday the Department of Trade revealed that it has petitioned the High Court for the compulsory winding-up of ESC plus five more of Mr Hunt's companies. This follows a month long investigation of Mr Hunt's firms by Department of Trade inspectors.

In addition to these moves the department is trying to revoke the licensed dealerships of three more of Mr Hunt's companies which advertise for funds from the public. These include Exchange Securities Financial Services, and Exchange Securities Investment Management, which operates from Mayfair, in London.

The Department of Trade says it has been trying to track down Mr Hunt for two weeks with no success. The official



Hunt managed £7.5m

Receiver has been appointed provisional liquidator by the court and a special squad from accountants Thomson McLintock was yesterday encamped in Exchange Securities' Warwick office.

Yesterday a spokesman for the Thomson McLintock team said it was there to preserve the assets left in the group. It was too early to know the fate of clients' money; Mr Hunt, well known for proclaiming his scientific investment techniques at one point said he had £7.5m under management.

Linfood may bid for Key Markets

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Linfood Holdings, which is in the middle of a bitterly-fought takeover battle for Fitch Lovell, is considering a number of alternatives, including bidding for the Key Markets chain within Fitch Lovell.

Fitch Lovell has been in talks with the American-owned Safeway Food Stores to sell Key Markets for a reported £35m. The move has been seen as a defensive one, effectively removing from Fitch Lovell its prime attraction for Linfood.

The Safeway move has come as the Monopolies and Mergers Commission recommendation on the £96m Linfood bid for Fitch is about to be announced. An expectation is that the bid will be given the green light.

Linfood wrote yesterday to Fitch asking for a meeting to discuss "a number of possible alternatives" to the reported sale of Key Markets to Safeway.

The letter makes clear that one of the alternatives could be an offer by Linfood to purchase 106 Key Markets stores. The letter adds: "We would expect to receive full information regarding Key Markets such as you probably supplied to Safeway during the course of negotiations."

36,000 in steel protest

From Bailey Morris, Washington

American steelworkers launched a two-pronged drive yesterday to block a proposed joint venture by British Steel and US Steel Corporation.

Workers from the Fairless Hill steelworks near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which would be affected by the venture delivered more than 36,000 letters to the White House, urging President Reagan to block the proposed venture.

Citing continuing high unemployment in the domestic steel industry, the workers' manifesto of the United Steelworkers of America, said that they did not want to lose their jobs to subsidised steel from abroad.

Their march on the White House coincided with the release of Congressional testimony in which Mr Lloyd McBride, the president of the Steelworkers union, demanded a full-scale Congressional investigation.

Improved overall profit in difficult markets

Points from the Statement by the Chairman, J.E.H. Collins, MBE, DSC:-

Results and Dividends The results reflect the intensified competition experienced by the insurance industry in the territories in which the Group operates. In spite of the impact of the underwriting results on cash flows, there was a very satisfactory increase in investment income.

The Directors are able to recommend the payment of a final dividend which, with the interim dividend paid in January 1983, will constitute an increase of 11.4% compared with the dividends paid in respect of the year 1981. After the appropriation for dividends, £28.7m has been transferred to retained profits.

United Kingdom The magnitude of the underwriting losses experienced by the market should result in premium rates hardening and also discourage underwriters from following the policy of writing risks solely to obtain premium volume irrespective of the size of the potential liabilities they may be incurring. Some improvement in terms for marine and aviation business was obtained.

Considerable progress has been achieved in restructuring our branch and claims bureau organization and in the introduction of mini computers to our field operations.

Other Territories The improvement in our German result has materialised. In Canada, whilst higher premium rates were forced through, this has continued to result in business being lost to competitors. The generally poor underwriting performance of companies within the United States is reflected in a deterioration in our own experience. In Australia there was a marked improvement in rating levels and our local company is now well placed. Some signs of discipline are returning to the South African market where we achieved a much improved and profitable result, but trading in the Republic of Ireland produced an underwriting loss in excess of the investment income earned.

Life New business growth plans were again achieved overall and new annual premiums increased by 15% with new single premiums recording a 138% rise. A special bonus to policyholders led to a record contribution in the Accounts.

Prospects We shall actively continue our policy of working primarily towards improvement in profitability rather than increase in volume in all territories and classes of business. We believe that our policy of selective underwriting should leave us well placed to take advantage of any upturn in market conditions.

New minister needed for EEC reforms, says Goldsmith

Call for European free trade

By Graham Scragg

The Prime Minister should appoint a Cabinet minister without portfolio to spearhead a "coordinated reforming crusade within the EEC", the Institute of Directors urged yesterday.

The institute has embarked on an intriguing campaign to reactivate the stalled progress of the European Community by switching its emphasis back to free trade between member countries.

"Businessmen are less than happy with many aspects of the Common Market," said institute director-general Mr Walter Goldsmith, as he launched a 64-page policy document entitled *The European Community - a policy for reform*. "Neither the Labour Party's absurdly impractical withdrawal policy, nor the Conservative's lagging and seat-to-seat 'stay in' stance are good enough for Britain."

Mr Goldsmith feels that Britain's negative position has allowed bureaucrats in Brussels to take over and foist silly controls on people such as the famous pet tortoise regulations as well as important directives on multinationalals and employee participation which his institute has strongly opposed.

He thinks that Britain should now seize the initiative. "We should concentrate attention on the creation of a true free market. Then there would not be enough time for these damaging bureaucratic ventures."

The institute's own checklist of recommendations for reform runs to 73, covering anything from the Low Voltage Directive, which it supports, to the monetary compensation amounts, which it wants abolished. It urges through-going reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy, endorses plans to harmonize trade union obligations, and rejects harmonization of employee participation.

But its main emphasis is on improving the working of the EEC's internal market and stopping individual EEC countries from adopting different non-tariff barriers to third country imports, such as voluntary restraint agreements. It wants to translate the Treaty of Rome "into a real capitalist's charter."

Although formal tariffs may have been abolished internally there are still many non-tariff barriers and impediments to free trade ranging from competing state support systems to unhelpful border guards. "We have not got free movement of goods and services," says Mr Goldsmith. As an instance, the port of Dover has customs officials on duty every day but those at Calais do not work at weekends.

The institute wants to dismantle border controls "except where absolutely necessary on health and security grounds" and harmonize procedures for the benefit of cross-border traders. It also wants to harmonize product standards and make type approval certificates the same, to promote competition, as well as simplifying and harmonizing VAT procedures throughout the Community.



Goldsmith: 'silly controls'



Copies of the full Annual Report for 1982 are obtainable from The Secretary, Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance plc, Royal Exchange, London EC3V 3LS.

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ICI profits take the City by storm

ICI took the market by storm with its £128m profit figure against the most bullish estimates of around £10m for the first quarter of 1983.

As the market worked out during the day, last week's caution which tinged the chairman's optimism was justified. Of the improved profit £20m comes from currency profits relating to 1982 contracts, and which may prove to be one-off. Knocking that out would bring pre-tax figures down to £108m for the first quarter - almost bang in the middle of the market's adjusted forecast range.

The initial reaction was to push ICI's share index back through the 700-mark, and the shares still finished the day at a near-record closing price of 476p.

A gain of 2p on the day where there has been such a strong bull position over the last couple of accounts is still respectable, but there does not seem to be a great deal to go for - particularly if the market as a whole is near its top.

Much will depend on how enthusiastically the US interest in the shares is maintained.

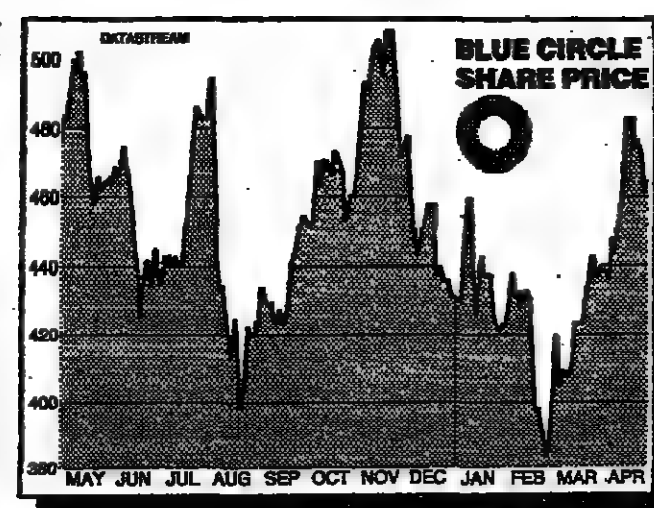
Blue Circle

Blue Circle Year to 31-12-82 Pretax profit £90m (£104.1m) Stated earnings 52.5p (48.1p) Turnover £705.2m (£750.2m) Net final dividend 12.25p making 18.25p (17.5p) Share price 483 up 2p. Yield 5.6%

A surge in UK profits has saved Blue Circle from the more painful effects of the dramas that have been affecting its leading businesses in Latin America.

Group pretax profits last year dropped from £104.1m to £90m. That is not bad performance in the light of the £37m downturn that occurred in Mexican and Chilean trading profits under pressure from economic collapse and plunging currencies.

Enormous price increases in Mexico and significant progress



in the negotiations to refinance £270m of Mexican borrowings that have assumed monumental proportions in local currency terms as the peso has collapsed, are unlikely to halt the decline in Latin American returns this year.

With volumes still falling, a recovery in Latin American profits, for so long Blue Circle's growth provider, is going to have to wait 1984.

After last year's rise of a quarter in UK trading profits to £42.5m, boosted by a 4 per cent growth in volume and substantial cost savings, there should be

further good progress in 1983. It has been well over a year since the last price rise.

With the industry's common price agreement once more under pressure, both commercially and from the office of Fair Trading it is going to prove difficult to push another through this year.

Volume is projected to rise between 3 and 5 per cent and the company will continue to derive benefit from its cost cutting and energy efficiency programme.

John Laing

John Laing Year to 31-12-82 Pretax profit £1.3m (£2.1m) Stated loss per share 4.5p (14.7p) Turnover £773m (£719m) Final dividend 1.875p making 2.875p (2.875p) Share price 110p up 15p Yield 3.7%

John Laing, Britain's second largest construction group, caught a cold in its three main

overseas markets last year. Problems ranged from the cancellation of a £40m dam building contract and 'unrecoverable' management in Venezuela, to a write down of £4.8m on two large contracts in the Middle East.

The result was that exceptional losses of £13.3m and extraordinary losses of £5.8m were included in the 1982 results. Without the problems overseas, the company said, pretax profits of £1.3m against £6.1m last year would have been much higher.

In 1983 the group hopes that profits will be in the region of £23m if all goes well.

George Wimpey, the house-building group, managed a 25m increase in pretax profits to £45.7m in 1982 compared with the previous year on a turnover which increased from £1.1bn to £1.24bn. A final dividend of 2.15p is recommended, making 3p for the year against 2.8p last time.

£24m Dowable bid for Cope lapses

By Andrew Cornelius

The bid for Cope Allman, the leisure and packaging group, by the Dowable consortium, lapsed yesterday.

Robert Fleming & Company, the merchant bankers to Dowable, said that after receiving acceptances representing only 22.7 per cent of Cope Allman's share capital, Dowable was unable to declare the offer unconditional. Therefore, the offer has lapsed.

Mr David Wickins, the chairman of British Car Auctions and who heads the consortium, launched his near £24m offer for Cope Allman early last month after joining

forces with Mr Michael Ashcroft, head of the Hawley Group, the leisure and entertainment company, and Lin Pac, the packaging and containers company.

The Dowable consortium held a 14 per cent stake in Cope Allman when the bid was announced. It had launched a similar consortium-based takeover attempt last December.

The present takeover battle was bitterly contested by Cope which described the Dowable offer as unsolicited and unwelcome.

Dottridge buy-out

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Dottridge Brothers of North London, one of the oldest names in the funeral trade which has been a family-run private company since 1833, is being bought out by its senior management.

Dottridge, which has about 30 trading branches in the South East and employs about 200 people, is among the top 20 funeral companies in Britain. There are about 600,000 funerals a year in Britain and costs for a funeral vary from £300 to £400.

The management team which is buying Dottridge for £1.5m is Group Captain Anthony Dottridge, the 66-year-old chairman who was a Second World War fighter pilot; Mr Victor Taylor, the 40-year-old managing director and Mr Simon Strudwick, finance director.

The three are taking three quarters of the equity with the rest covered by a term loan from County Bank which is continuing as the company's financial adviser. Dottridge has an annual turnover of £3.4m.

Granville & Co Limited.
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The Over-the-Counter Market

PRICE	LOW	HIGH	COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE	PERCENT	ADVICE	PERCENT
142	120	120	Am Brit Ind Ord	134	-	6.4	4.8	10.2
138	117	117	Am Brit Ind CULS	132	-	10.0	6.6	-
74	57	57	Airways Group	62ad	-	6.1	9.8	17.7
46	30	30	Armstrong & Rhodes	30	-	4.3	14.3	3.5
325	197	197	Barton Hill	325	-	11.4	3.5	13.7
144	100	100	CCIL 10.0% Conv Prof	144	-	15.7	10.9	-
270	210	210	Clackson Group	210	-	17.6	8.4	-
86	50	50	Debenhams Services	50	-	1.0	12.0	3.5
97	77	77	Frank Hovell	97	-	8.7	10.6	11.4
95	75	75	Frank Hovell Fr Ord 87	95.5	-	7.1	11.5	3.9
83	61	61	Frederick Parker	62	-	1.1	11.5	3.9
55	34	34	George Blair	34	-	-	-	12.3
100	74	74	Ind Free Castings	77	-	7.3	9.5	9.9
166	100	100	Isa Corp Prof	166	-	13.7	9.5	-
146	94	94	Jackson Group	146	-	7.5	8.1	4.5
214	111	111	James Burroughs	214	-	9.5	4.5	15.6
260	148	148	Robert Jackson	152	-	20.0	13.2	17.4
83	54	54	Suttons "A"	69	-	1.7	8.3	10.8
167	112	112	Torday & Carlisle	114	-	11.4	10.0	5.1
28	21	21	Unibank Holdings	26	-	0.46	1.8	-
85	64	64	Walter Alexander	67	-	6.4	9.6	4.8
270	214	214	W. S. Young	265	-	17.1	6.5	4.1

Prices now available on Pressel, page 48146

WATMOUGHS (HOLDINGS) PLC			
Gravure and litho printers Carton manufacturers			
Another year of progress 1 for 5 scrip issue			
	1982	1981	Increase
Group turnover	£21 million	£17.2 million	22%
Group profit	£1.8 million	£1.5 million	19%
Dividend per share	6.25p	5.45p	15%
Outlook New opportunities available to gravure capacities because of technical innovations. Additional major contracts obtained for 1983. Better prospects for packaging interests.			
Report and accounts available from the Secretary, Idle, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD18 8NL			

WEIR

Results for 52 weeks ended 31st December 1982

PROGRESS

	1982	1981
Turnover	£7000	£7000
Profit before interest and tax	136,901	152,220
Interest	10,136	13,071
Profit before tax	7,680	8,298
Shareholders' funds	43,481	42,381
Total borrowings	16,343	20,702
Earnings per share, fully diluted		
Historic cost	7.0p	10.7p
Current cost	3.4p	6.7p
Proposed total dividend:		
on Convertible Preference Shares	2.5p	1.5616p
on Ordinary Shares	2.5p	1.85p

A further reduction in Group borrowings, made possible by maintaining profitability and controlling cash flow despite difficult market conditions, has placed the Group in a much improved financial position with a return to normal banking arrangements.

The signs of recovery in the USA and elsewhere, even if maintained, will take some months to work through into capital plant orders which would benefit the Group. The recent fall in oil prices will reduce expenditure by oil producers, and this, with depressed markets, means that 1983 will be a difficult year.

However, the Group is now strong enough to weather a continuing storm if that should be necessary. Improvements in profitability will mainly depend on an upturn in the UK and world economies.

Weir Group - pumps, power plant auxiliaries, steel castings, metal pattern equipment, water desalination plant, engineering contracting. Group companies employ 5,000. Subsidiary and associate companies in Canada, Australia, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Middle East, Far East and Nigeria.

Copies of the Reports and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary, The Weir Group PLC, Cathcart, Glasgow, G44 4EX.

WEIR
THE WEIR GROUP PLC

Norwich Union

The Chairman Mr M G Falcon CBE, DL reports:

LIFE SOCIETY

A modest increase in new business against a background of unsettled market conditions. Bonuses to policyholders increased in October and again at the year end.

FIRE SOCIETY

Turnover maintained at 1981 levels, but severe competition caused pre-tax profits to fall to £26m.

Life Society

1982 was a year of unusual ups and downs. Sales of individual life insurance and pension policies did well but new company pension business languished. In the United Kingdom we invested £318m of new money, of which £83m went into property, £183m into ordinary shares and £52m into British Government Stocks.

The market value of the Life Society's assets rose substantially to £4,838m, and considerable improvements were made to our bonuses, and hence to the sums we pay to policyholders.

Fire Society

Against a worldwide background of reckless competition, we resolved to set premiums at levels adequate to maintain our service yet remain relatively competitive. This has meant the loss of some business. Worldwide premium income did not advance on 1981.

Pre-tax profits dropped by one third to £26m, the increase in our investment income being more than absorbed by deteriorating underwriting results.

A return to a healthier market is likely to be slow, but indications are emerging of improved underwriting standards. This provides a glimmer of hope for longer term prospects. The free reserves increased significantly to £312m.

NW Group

Norwich Winterthur, in which the Fire Society has a 45 per cent interest, produced an estimated pre-tax loss of £2.6 million compared with £8.4 million profit in 1981. This loss was primarily caused by extremely poor reinsurance results.

Premiums grew to £201m.

Banking

Norwich General Trust, which specialises in loans to industry and commerce, continued to receive considerable demand for its services. During the year 230 new advances were made for £19m, taking total advances to over £75m. AP Bank also had a good year in 1982. There was a large increase in loans, mainly as short to medium term advances to U.K. companies, and turnover in the Foreign Exchange department showed a marked increase.

Life Society			
	1982	1981	
TOTAL PREMIUMS	£670.7m	£394.8m	
New Annual Premiums	76.7	75.5	
New Single Premiums	118.8	74.8	
Cost of Bonuses			
Annual	112.6	66.7	
Terminal	18.6	13.3	
Special	81.2	-	
ANALYSIS OF PREMIUMS			
United Kingdom	367.6	308.4	
Republic of Ireland	13.4	11.1	
Overseas	89.7	74.3	
	470.7	394.8	
Group Assets	£5,522.8m	£4,355.6m	
Fire Society			
PREMIUMS	£251.3m	£280.2m	
Investment income	51.8	44.7	
Underwriting loss	(20.8)	(4.8)	
Associated Companies' earnings	(1.2)	2.9	
Expenses not charged to other accounts	(8.8)	(3.6)	
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	26.2	39.2	
Taxation and Minority Interests	10.5	17.8	
NET PROFIT	15.7	21.6	
Dividends	10.8	10.0	
ANALYSIS			
	Premiums	Underwriting Result	
	1982	1981	
United Kingdom	£258.0m	£258.7m	£116.9m
Republic of Ireland	16.3	17.3	(4.3)
Overseas	31.5	28.3	(4.1)
Marine & Aviation	28.0	17.3	(3.2)
	325.8	322.6	(28.5)
Less Reinsurance with Associates	(74.5)	(72.4)	7.7
Totals	251.3	250.2	(20.8)
Investment income attributable to Insurance Operations	34.3	26.8	
Insurance Result	13.5	25.0	
Norwich Winterthur Group (Fire Society owns 45%)			
Unaudited Results	1982	1981	
Premiums	£201.5m	£172.1m	
Profit before Taxation	£2.8	£6.4	

Copies of the Director's Report and Group Accounts including the Chairman's full Statement may be obtained from the Norwich Union Insurance Group, PO Box 48, Norwich, NR1 2TA.



The Annual General Meeting of the Norwich Union Life Insurance Society will be held on the 10th May 1983 in Norwich

Base Lending Rates

ARN Bank	10 %
Barclays	10 %
BCCI	10 %
Consolidated Creds	10 %
C. Howe & Co	10 %
Lloyds Bank	10 %
Midland Bank	10 %
Nat Westminster	10 %
TSB	10 %
Williams & Glyn's	10 %

* 7 day deposits on terms of notice 14 days, 21 days, 28 days, 35 days, 42 days, 49 days, 56 days, 63 days, 70 days, 77 days, 84 days, 91 days, 98 days, 105 days, 112 days, 119 days, 126 days, 133 days, 140 days, 147 days, 154 days, 161 days, 168 days, 175 days, 182 days, 189 days, 196 days, 203 days, 210 days, 217 days, 224 days, 231 days, 238 days, 245 days, 252 days, 259 days, 266 days, 273 days, 280 days, 287 days, 294 days, 301 days, 308 days, 315 days, 322 days, 329 days, 336 days, 343 days, 350 days, 357 days, 364 days, 371 days, 378 days, 385 days, 392 days, 399 days, 406 days, 413 days, 420 days, 427 days, 434 days, 441 days, 448 days, 455 days, 462 days, 469 days, 476 days, 483 days, 490 days, 497 days, 504 days, 511 days, 518 days, 525 days, 532 days, 539 days, 546 days, 553 days, 560 days, 567 days, 574 days, 581 days, 588 days, 595 days, 602 days, 609 days, 616 days, 623 days, 630 days, 637 days, 644 days, 651 days, 658 days, 665 days, 672 days, 679 days, 686 days, 693 days, 700 days, 707 days, 714 days, 721 days, 728 days, 735 days, 742 days, 749 days, 756 days, 763 days, 770 days, 777 days, 784 days, 791 days, 798 days, 805 days, 812 days, 819 days, 826 days, 833 days, 840 days, 847 days, 854 days, 861 days, 868 days, 875 days, 882 days, 889 days, 896 days, 903 days, 910 days, 917 days, 924 days, 931 days, 938 days, 945 days, 952 days, 959 days, 966 days, 973 days, 980 days, 987 days, 994 days, 1001 days, 1008 days, 1015 days, 1022 days, 1029 days, 1036 days, 1043 days, 1050 days, 1057 days, 1064 days, 1071 days, 1078 days, 1085 days, 1092 days, 1099 days, 1106 days, 1113 days, 1120 days, 1127 days, 1134 days, 1141 days, 1148 days, 1155 days, 1162 days, 1169 days, 1176 days, 1183 days, 1190 days, 1197 days, 1204 days, 1211 days, 1218 days, 1225 days, 1232 days, 1239 days, 1246 days, 1253 days, 1260 days, 1267 days, 1274 days, 1281 days, 1288 days, 1295 days, 1302 days, 1309 days, 1316 days, 1323 days, 1330 days, 1337 days, 1344 days, 1351 days, 1358 days, 1365 days, 1372 days, 1379 days, 1386 days, 1393 days, 1400 days, 1407 days, 1414 days, 1421 days, 1428 days, 1435 days, 1442 days, 1449 days, 1456 days, 1463 days, 1470 days, 1477 days, 1484 days, 1491 days, 1498 days, 1505 days, 1512 days, 1519 days, 1526 days, 1533 days, 1540 days, 1547 days, 1554 days, 1561 days, 1568 days, 1575 days, 1582 days, 1589 days, 1596 days, 1603 days, 1610 days, 1617 days, 1624 days, 1631 days, 1638 days, 1645 days, 1652 days, 1659 days, 1666 days, 1673 days, 1680 days, 1687 days, 1694 days, 1701 days, 1708 days, 1715 days, 1722 days, 1729 days, 1736 days, 1743 days, 1750 days, 1757 days, 1764 days, 1771 days, 1778 days, 1785 days, 1792 days, 1799 days, 1806 days, 1813 days, 1820 days, 1827 days, 1834 days, 1841 days, 1848 days, 1855 days, 1862 days, 1869 days, 1876 days, 1883 days, 1890 days, 1897 days, 1904 days, 1911 days, 1918 days, 1925 days, 1932 days, 1939 days, 1946 days, 1953 days, 1960 days, 1967 days, 1974 days, 1981 days, 1988 days, 1995 days, 2002 days, 2009 days, 2016 days, 2023 days, 2030 days, 2037 days, 2044 days, 2051 days, 2058 days, 2065 days, 2072 days, 2079 days, 2086 days, 2093 days, 2100 days, 2107 days, 2114 days, 2121 days, 2128 days, 2135 days, 2142 days, 2149 days, 2156 days, 2163 days, 2170 days, 2177 days, 2184 days, 2191 days, 2198 days, 2205 days, 2212 days, 2219 days, 2226 days, 2233 days, 2240 days, 2247 days, 2254 days, 2261 days, 2268 days, 2275 days, 2282 days, 2289 days, 2296 days, 2303 days, 2310 days, 2317 days, 2324 days, 2331 days, 2338 days, 2345 days, 2352 days, 2359 days, 2366 days, 2373 days, 2380 days, 2387 days, 2394 days, 2401 days, 2408 days, 2415 days, 2422 days, 2429 days, 2436 days, 2443 days, 2450 days, 2457 days, 2464 days, 2471 days, 2478 days, 2485 days, 2492 days, 2499 days, 2506 days, 2513 days, 2520 days, 2527 days, 2534 days, 2541 days, 2548 days, 2555 days, 2562 days, 2569 days, 2576 days, 2583 days, 2590 days, 2597 days, 2604 days, 2611 days, 2618 days, 2625 days, 2632 days, 2639 days, 2646 days, 2653 days, 2660 days, 2667 days, 2674 days, 2681 days, 2688 days, 2695 days, 2702 days, 2709 days, 2716 days, 2723 days, 2730 days, 2737 days, 2744 days, 2751 days, 2758 days, 2765 days, 2772 days, 2779 days, 2786 days, 2793 days, 2800 days, 2807 days, 2814 days, 2821 days, 2828 days, 2835 days, 2842 days, 2849 days, 2856 days, 2863 days, 2870 days, 2877 days, 2884 days, 2891 days, 2898 days, 2905 days, 2912 days, 2919 days, 2926 days, 2933 days, 2940 days, 2947 days, 2954 days, 296

FOOTBALL: MANAGERS HAVE THEIR SAY AFTER EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP TIES

Injury to Withe disrupts Robson's plans

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Bobby Robson yesterday lost the England centre forward he found on Wednesday night. Withe broke his thumb during the first half of the European Championship tie against Hungary at Wembley and suffered a depressed fracture of his cheekbone during the second and is out for the rest of the league season.

Robson admitted that he had added Withe to the party merely as a "stop gap" after Woodcock had joined his other preferred, Charlie Martin, on the absurdly lengthy injury list. But events during the crucial 2-0 victory persuaded him to review the international prospects of Aston Villa's 31-year-old forward.

Robson picked out Withe for special praise. "He played with great presence, with great passion and skill too," he said. "He might have added with not a little courage as well. "He did wonderfully well for the first goal because not many would have held on to the ball in that position. "As for the second," he added, "his chest control was perfect and he will never hit a better cross-shot during the rest of his career."

After Mariner's disappointing performance against Wales and Woodcock's win display against Greece, the weakness of Withe's claim to England's No 9 shirt was to be seen with only X-ray vision. The facial injury, treated during an operation in Birmingham yesterday, is similar to that received by Wilkins, a former captain who missed the match in Greece and has yet to regain his place.

Withe's chances of playing in the two remaining home international games and the tour to Australia in June are limited. Since Robson will want to use those five games as dress rehearsals for the next European Championship fixture, at home against Denmark at the beginning of next season, Withe must wait to see if anyone else steps forward from the chorus line, as he did himself, to take a leading role alongside Francis.

The midfield cast remains as unsettled. Lee and Mabbutt

have enjoyed uninterrupted runs since making their respective debuts but none of the other nine chosen so far by Robson have performed in more than two successive matches. Covans, the latest addition, was instructed by England's manager to tuck in his shirt during the interval and "then he began to look like an England player."

During the opening half hour, described by Robson as "sketchy", England lacked the authority of Bryan Robson and Wilkins, if not the inspiration of Hoddle. But Covans struck a perfect free kick for Francis to put them ahead and Lee found Withe with equal precision 20 minutes from the end.

Shilton needed to confirm his class with two important saves but, since the opening group three tie in Copenhagen, England's defence has been disturbed only by two speedy individuals, Rush and Rummenigge, who both struck at Wembley. The Danes are unlikely to allow the evening of September 21 to pass with such serenity.

Group three

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	3	2	0	1	10	5	4
Denmark	3	1	1	1	7	6	3
Greece	3	0	2	1	4	6	2
Luxembourg	3	0	0	3	2	10	0

Remaining fixtures: Hungary v Greece, May 18; Denmark v England, May 21; Greece v Luxembourg, May 24; England v Denmark, September 21; Hungary v England, September 24; Luxembourg v Greece, September 27; Denmark v Luxembourg, October 12; Hungary v Denmark, October 15; Greece v England, November 18; Luxembourg v Hungary, November 21; England v Luxembourg, November 24.

Group seven

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	4	3	1	0	11	3	7
Netherlands	4	2	1	1	9	6	5
Poland	4	1	2	1	7	7	4
Belgium	4	0	2	2	4	8	2

Remaining fixtures: Malta v Spain, May 18; Netherlands v Spain, May 21; Poland v Netherlands, May 24; Belgium v Poland, May 27; Spain v Netherlands, September 21; Malta v Poland, September 24; Netherlands v Belgium, September 27; Spain v Belgium, October 12; Poland v Netherlands, October 15; Malta v Netherlands, November 18; Spain v Malta, November 21.

GROUP TWO:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	3	2	0	1	7	4	4
Sweden	3	1	1	1	6	5	3
Finland	3	0	1	2	3	8	1

CRICKET: WEATHER STILL HOLDS THE UPPER HAND

'Whale' makes bow wave at Lord's

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

The weather at Lord's yesterday was perfect for cricket. It was warm for the time of year, the sun shone almost without interruption. Spectators picked up in their shirts. The only trouble was that the ground was so hopelessly waterlogged that for the second day running no play was possible in the match between MCC and Middlesex.

At lunchtime, as a reminder that cricket, despite the climate, still has a wide and eager readership, Allen and Unwin, the publishers, launched or relaunched various books on the game. E. M. Wells, the author of the most pungent of them (*Vintage Cricketers*, 29.95), was playing in 1931 when Herbert Sutcliffe, one of the greatest Test batsmen recorded, scored 3,306 runs at an average of 96.96.

"Such deplorable weather was experienced last summer," *Widdowson* wrote, "that coming on top of an almost equally wet season in 1930, the loss of money rendered the position of several of the less wealthy counties to a degree." Even today, the weather is a factor in the 60 first-class innings. Yesterday the players were able to let off steam in the indoor school, which was not, of course, in existence in 1931. Middlesex have still had only one day's cricket in the middle.

Rain today will jeopardize even tomorrow's cricket at Lord's and the Oval. And if the best way to dry the grounds would be to tow them to the Indian Ocean or the Caribbean, someone, you may be sure, would object to one or more of the players on board.

As the new machine at Lord's - called a "whale" - it served its apprenticeship in Melbourne - piled its way across the square, it created a bow wave. There was no way of playing cricket - even a game with no points at all - with two captains, Gower and Gattling, who know, without being told, that it is less than eight weeks to the longest day.

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Lever has Cambridge in trouble

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

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Withe: courage personified

Hungary, if they beat Greece at home next month, will overtake Denmark, whom they visit on June 1. That, as Robson points out, could be a significant event. While their only realistic challengers are at play, England are involved in a domestic issue that some regard as equally important, the annual fixture against Scotland. The last time the "auld enemies" met was on the road to Spain but Scotland's path to the European finals in France has already ended. Belgium, who beat East Germany on Wednesday night, extended their lead in group one and can now be caught only by Switzerland.

How they stand at halfway stage

Group three

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	3	2	0	1	10	5	4
Denmark	3	1	1	1	7	6	3
Greece	3	0	2	1	4	6	2
Luxembourg	3	0	0	3	2	10	0

Remaining fixtures: Hungary v Greece, May 18; Denmark v England, May 21; Greece v Luxembourg, May 24; England v Denmark, September 21; Hungary v England, September 24; Luxembourg v Greece, September 27; Denmark v Luxembourg, October 12; Hungary v Denmark, October 15; Greece v England, November 18; Luxembourg v Hungary, November 21; England v Luxembourg, November 24.

Group seven

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	4	3	1	0	11	3	7
Netherlands	4	2	1	1	9	6	5
Poland	4	1	2	1	7	7	4
Belgium	4	0	2	2	4	8	2

Remaining fixtures: Malta v Spain, May 18; Netherlands v Spain, May 21; Poland v Netherlands, May 24; Belgium v Poland, May 27; Spain v Netherlands, September 21; Malta v Poland, September 24; Netherlands v Belgium, September 27; Spain v Belgium, October 12; Poland v Netherlands, October 15; Malta v Netherlands, November 18; Spain v Malta, November 21.

GROUP TWO:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	3	2	0	1	7	4	4
Sweden	3	1	1	1	6	5	3
Finland	3	0	1	2	3	8	1

GROUP ONE:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	3	2	0	1	7	4	4
Switzerland	3	1	1	1	6	5	3
Sweden	3	0	1	2	3	8	1

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Switzerland	3	2	0	1	7	4	4
Sweden	3	1	1	1	6	5	3
Finland	3	0	1	2	3	8	1

GROUP ONE:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	3	2	0	1	7	4	4
Switzerland	3	1	1	1	6	5	3
Sweden	3	0	1	2	3	8	1

GROUP TWO:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	3	2	0	1	7	4	4
Sweden	3	1	1	1	6	5	3
Finland	3	0	1	2	3	8	1

GROUP ONE:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	3	2	0	1	7	4	4
Switzerland	3	1	1	1	6	5	3
Sweden	3	0	1	2	3	8	1

GROUP TWO:

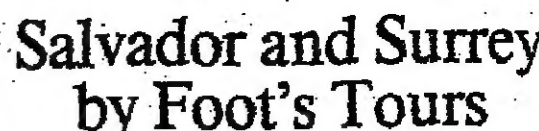
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	3	2	0	1	7	4	4
Sweden	3	1	1	1	6	5	3
Finland	3	0	1	2	3	8	1

GROUP ONE:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	3	2	0	1	7	4	4
Switzerland	3	1	1	1	6	5	3
Sweden	3	0	1	2	3	8	1

GROUP TWO:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	3	2	0	1	7	4	4
Sweden	3	1	1	1	6	5	



"There is nothing we can do to stop this destruction of our maritime heritage, but we believe the haste with which it has been done is immoral and unforgivable."

industry should receive 90 per cent public funding, but Mr Jenkin said that would not "secure a sufficient industrial commitment and could lead to the programme becoming divorced from industry's needs". Therefore all industrial projects will receive 50 per cent public funding. However, the

Sir Francis Tombs, the former chairman of the Electricity Council, said that the retirement of Sir James Hamilton from the Department of Education and Science left the Civil Service without a scientist or engineer among 42 permanent secretaries.

☐ Expert systems, giving computers specialist knowledge about a subject and a program to apply it to a specific task such as medical diagnosis;

☐ Very large-scale integrated circuits to create the next generation of extremely powerful microchips.

American officials briefing reporters on the plane carrying Mr Shultz to Beirut, blamed what they said was Syrian pressure on Lebanon, backed by the Soviet Union, for the

In a stern exhortation to his Israeli hosts, Mr Shultz said that the outstanding issues had been "debated, analysed, pored over, agonized over. Now is the time to resolve them . . . there is a time to debate and a time to decide. Now is the time to decide."

B. Priestley. But a timely cacophony on the Labour benches overwhelmed the

afternoon, trying our various ideas in his mind, until reasonably plausible ones turned up. Costa Rica? Costa Living? Be it Salvador or Surrey, it is all grist to Mr Foot in humanity's struggle.

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. **FRONTS** Warm Cold Occluded
Symbols are an advancing edge

[illegible]

Hongkong \$	11.13	10.5
Ireland Pt	1.27	1.2
Italy Lira	2355.00	2245.0
Japan Yen	391.00	371.0
Netherlands Gld	4.49	4.2
Norway Kr	11.60	11.0
Portugal Esc	170.00	152.0

Birmingham	c 11 52	Leicester	c 11 52
Blackpool	r 8 46	Jersey	s 11 55
Bristol	c 12 51	London	1 14 55
Cardiff	f 12 54	Manchester	c 11 55
Edinburgh	r 9 48	Newcastle	r 7 44
Glasgow	f 11 52	Rundbury	f 8 44

London

	C	F		C
Algeria	1	19 66	Copenhagen	1
Algeria	2	24 75	Corn	2
Alexandria	2	25 77	Dallas	2
Algiers	1	21 70	Dublin	1
Amsterdam	1	12 54	Dubrovnik	1
Athens	2	23 73	Faro	1
Bahrain	5	29 84	Florence	3
Batavia	1	20 86	Frankfurt	1

	C	F	G	
Majorca	1 21	70	Rio de Jan	1 25
Malaga	1 19	65	Roma	1 20
Malta	1 20	68	Salzburg	1 19
Melbourne	1 17	63	Sao Paulo	1 21
Mexico C	1 25	77	S Francisco	1 22
Miami	1 28	79	Santiago	1 16
Millan	1 19	65	Seoul	1 32
Montreal	1 34	57	Singapore	1 23

The Times tomorrow

Parliament today

9 Death Wish II (RCA/Columbia)
10 Stripes (RCA/Columbia)
Supplied by Video Business

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USA \$	1.62	1.5
Yugoslavia Dnr	126.50	119.5

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Retail Price Index: 227.0

Highest and lowest

Banff	\$ 17.63	Inverbrock	\$ 17.63
Boutagne	c 9.48	Islands	\$ 21
Bordaux	\$ 16.61	Jiddah	\$ 32.95
Braintree	\$ 13.50	Jersey	\$ 22.75
Buckport	\$ 23.75	Karachi	\$ 40.10
Buen Aires	\$ 22.72	Los Palmas	\$ 20.80
Cabo	\$ 29.84	Lisbon	\$ 11.55
Cape To	\$ 17.68	Locarno	\$ 14.55
Chibson	\$ 19.65	Los Angeles	\$ 17.65

New York	\$ 22.72	Tamara	\$ 2.00
Nice	1 18.61	Tokyo	2 25
Otto	0 10.50	Toronto	1 25
Günther		Turk	1 25
Paris	5 15.59	Valencia	1 25
Peking	1 15.59	Vancouver	1 10
Prague	2 25.77	Vien	1 15
Praha	1 19.85	Wien	1 15
Raymond	5 5.43	Warsaw	1 15